

Moore girds for Olympic chase

Sailing out of the Hyannis Yacht Club since he was 8 years old, Tyler Moore is now mounting a bid to make the 1996 United States Olympic Team in the 470 class.

Moore and crewmate Ryan Cox of Ventura, Calif., have had some top performances in recent regattas, including finishing fifth in the 505 World Championship at Cornwall, England. The 505s are similar in size to 470s and Moore and Cox were the top U.S. finishers in competition of 106 boats representing 19 nations.

In the the 470 World Championship in Canada, Moore and Cox finished 29th and then improved to 13th in the North American 470 races.

Moore, 23, a 1995 graduate of the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C., was named College Sailor of the Year in 1994, sailing's equivalent to college football's Heisman Trophy. He was also a three-time college All-American.

Cox was the 1995 College Sailor of the Year while at the the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis.

The sailing trials for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta will be held next May. The yachting venue for the Games will be in Savannah, Ga.

Moore and Cox are continuing to train and compete, but sailing skills are only part of the challenge. They need to raise about \$92,000 to cover expenses for sails, research, equipment, travel, supplies and such.

Moore and Cox spent the summer training in Hyannis and now are traveling to raise funds and sharpen their racing skills in various competitions. The team recently began sailing a new 470, built in Germany, and have made a lot of progress in boat speed and tactics.

Moore said they've raised about \$54,000 and have acquired spon-

Dock Lines

By Joe Hoffman

sorships from Tracy Chevrolet, Ronstan Marine, Cleveland Steel Container and Fedders Corporation. A fundraiser was held at the Hyannis Yacht Club last summer and another is scheduled for Dec. 10 at the Black Cat Restaurant in Hyannis.

Moore and Cox were scheduled to compete in an Olympic Training Regatta at the Savannah Yacht Club earlier this month, and then will return to Savannah in May for the Olympic Trials. It'll be an all-or-nothing competition, with about 15 to 20 teams sailing 12 races over eight days. The one winner goes to the Olympics.

Moore's emergence as an Olympic-caliber sailor is a dream come true for his father, Stanley Moore of Hyannis. A top sailor himself for many years in the Wianno Senior class, Stanley Moore brought his son along in the sport with early training at the Hyannis Yacht Club.

From there, Tyler raced for Tabor Academy in Marion, the U.S. Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, R.I. (where he met Cox), and, finally, the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

Cox, meanwhile, went from prep school to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, where he capped off a brilliant sailing career by leading the Midshipmen to their third straight Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association National Dinghy Team Championship.

Looking ahead to the Olympic Trials, Morgan Reeser and Kevin Burnham from Kings Point, N.Y., are the defending U.S. 470 champions and won the silver medal in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. They will be in Savannah, along with other top teams such as Tim Col-

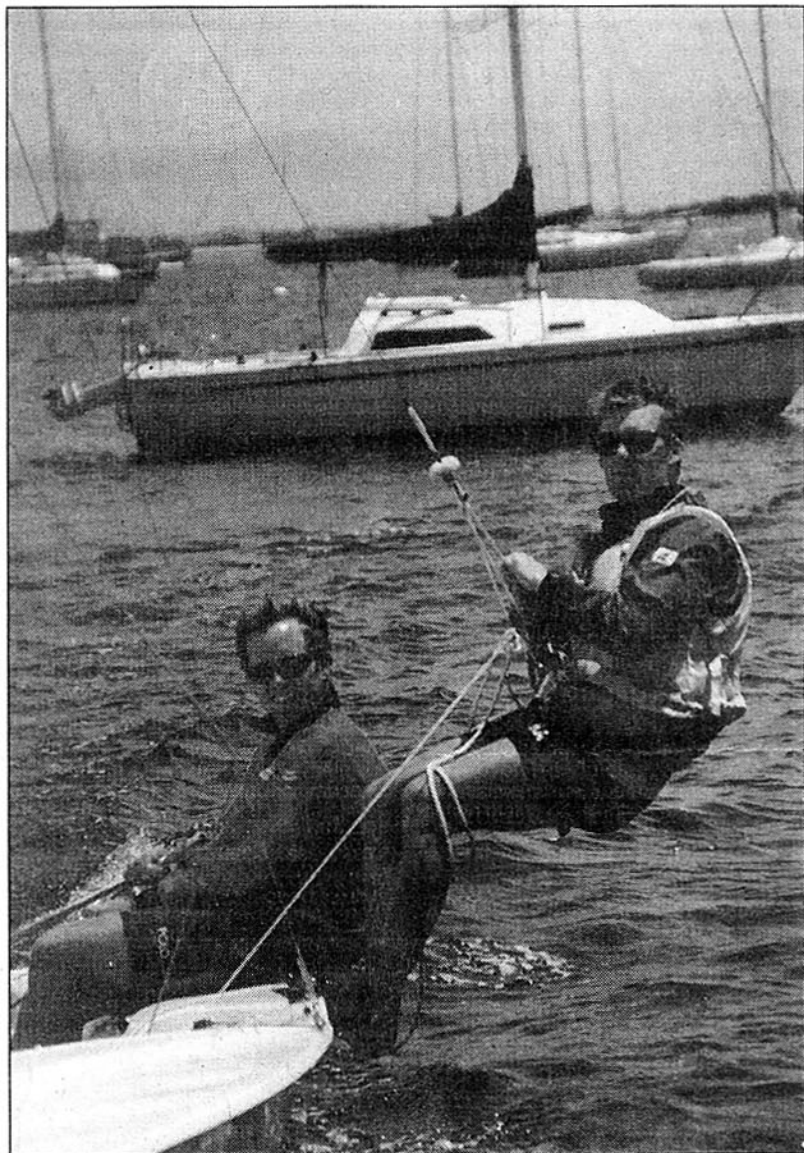


Photo Courtesy of TERI MOORE

■ Tyler Moore, left, of Hyannis Yacht Club and Ryan Cox of Ventura, Calif., are mounting a bid for the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team in the 470 class.

lins and John Farrar of Duxbury; Josh Adams and Bob Merrick from Newport, R.I.; and Mike Sturman and Bob Little from Canoga Park, Calif.

The Moore-Cox team is confident.

"I think we'll make a good team because I'm bigger than Tyler and I think I'll be able to crew well," said Cox, who weighs 170 pounds, compared to 145 for Moore. "There's a lot of physical labor involved in crewing. The skipper

makes the decisions. I can help Tyler so all he needs needs to worry about is making the boat go faster."

Contributions to the Moore-Cox team may be made payable to the United States Sailing Federation and mailed to Moore/Cox Olympic Campaign, care of Hyannis Yacht Club, 490 Ocean Street, Hyannis, 02601.

Joe Hoffman is a Times special writer.