KEANE AND KEENAN OF U.S.A. ARE WESTERN HEMISPHERE CHAMPS

John Keane and Ted Keenan are an experienced team, having sailed together at Harvard, and that experience showed as they won a light-air, seven-race Western Hemisphere Championship, but the rest story, from the viewpoint of seamanship, has to be the superior performance of the U.S.A.'s District One representatives, who took three of the top six spots. Bryan Fishback and Otis Stookey took the first race win on their way to fourth overall, while their Annapolis teammates, Hal Gireausi with Will Glenn crewing, took the win in race four and ended up in sixth overall. Argentina was just behind, team wise, taking second, third, and seventh overall.

The week got off to a great start with the Opening Ceremonies. Among the highlights were speeches by Bahamas' Minister for Tourism, the Minister of Sport, and finally, the Prime Minister himself. After the flags were raised, the party started, an early indicator of just how well the Bahamians are at mixing competition and fun.

Those who might have expected conditions similar to those reported from the Winter Circuit were surely disappointed, as it was a different time of year with totally different conditions. Serious hailing winds were rare, making tactics the determining factor. One need only look at the record of seven-time Gambol winner Jeff Lovatt to see that experience gained in the month of March meant little or nothing in October and while some hometown spectaculars talked about local knowledge, Jimmy Lewis' second place finish in race six was the only Bahamian placing in the top five of any race.

Annapolis veterans Bryan Fishback and Otis Stookey got things off to a good start, taking the win in Race #1, with Argentina's John McCull and Sergio Ripell in second, their only serious showing of the week. Keane and Keenan were third, followed by Brasil's Manoel Pires and Andres Schmidt, and Antonio Lenez and Marcelo Maia in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Race two gave Keane and Keenan a chance to show that they were the team to beat as they took the win, followed by Pan-American Gold Medal winners, Masao and Lorenzo of Cuba in their best result of the series. Third was Ivan Pomeral and Gustavo Farah of Brazil with Japan's Yoshikazu Iwakish and Masako Ota in fourth.

Day two started off with almost no wind. In the day's first race the Argentinean team of Cristian Ozman and Alejandro Andrea turned up rudderless (shumpping) off the pin end of the line and had a horizon-job lead at the first mark. As the race progressed several boats made moves to reel in the leaders, but all were unsuccessful. Meanwhile, back in the pack, Keane and Keenan were having a very hard time. They had apparently fouled someone at the start, and after doing their turns started in what appeared to be last place. They managed to keep their cool, and picked off boat after boat to record a very impressive come-from-behind seventh place.

Race four was more light air, in fact at times it was a bit light and District One's Hal Gireausi, with crew Will Glenn, was up to the challenge, taking the bullet as the Autumn sun was setting. Second was to Guillermo Parada and Gonzalo Martinez, giving them the overall lead with a record of 6-6-3-2. Lemo and Maia backed up their race two third with a second, putting them into contention with finishes of 5-9-2-3, no surprise for this team. Keane and Keenan faded to 11th, causing some to wonder if the light air was more than they could handle, or maybe if Keenan was a little too "beefy" to be paired with John.

Those doubts were put to rest on day three of the racing as the boys from Boston took a second in race five and backed that up with a bullet in race six. The action in race five was some of the week's

Members of Nassau's team pose for this shot at the Awards Banquet.
best, featuring a three boat shootout between 1991 World Champions Axel Rodger and Jorge Queiroga of Argentina, 1989 World Champion and defending champion of this event, "Ricky" Fabini and Ivan Guichet of Uruguay, and Keane and Keenan. The final leg was really exciting with Rodger in the lead, trying to decide who to cover while the two followers gave up a tacking duel to concentrate on boat speed in the dying breezes. Finally Keane eased-

Some World Champions were on hand: (1 to r) Marcello Maia, Brazil, Crew in 1987, Ricardo Fabini, Uruguay, 1989, Jorge Queiroga, Argentina Crew, 1991; Axel Rodger, Argentina 1991; Jeff Lenhart, USA, 1981; and Axel Schmidt 1951, 1963 & 1965!