

Agustin Diaz Captures 32nd Mid-Winter Crown

CONTEST PROVED UNPREDICTABLE. DIAZ SURPRISES MANY WITH WIN BY NOSING OUT SEAVY TRYING TO GET THE TITLE FOR THE 8TH TIME. ELMS IN THIRD PLACE THE REST FAR BEHIND.

Florida usually has a fond attraction to senior citizens, but in Clearwater this year youth was served while the veterans found no hand of kindness extended.

The youngster that came out the best was 14-year old Augustin Diaz of Coconut Grove YC near Miami. With his dad, Gonzalo, crewing for him, the slender skipper surprised the field of 24 of the nation's top skippers by capturing the championship overall.

Gas sailed to a pair of firsts in the last 2 races on Friday, winning both by large margins, and thus clearly clinched the title. He had 5-1-4-3-1-1, and dropped the 5 for a score of 13.7; Seavy, the defending champ and 7-time winner, had 3-3-2-1-2 for 17.4. Earl Elms, 3-time National Champion, got 3rd overall with 28 when he hit a mark in the final race and disqualified himself. Canadian Ilmo Richards was 4th with 41.4 and Tom Nute of California, winner of recent Circuit regattas, was 5th with 42.4.

24 entries from 11 states completed in a 6 races series in this time-honored Snipe event starting Tues. Mar. 11 with 1 race, 2 on Wed., 2 Thurs., 1 Friday. The weather was generally cold and raw with winds strong enough to force switching of courses from the open Gulf of Mexico to the more sheltered waters of South Clearwater Bay where T courses (twice around a triangle with a finish to windward) were sailed instead of the O or modified Olympic courses used on the Gulf. The cool week was not typical of Florida weather.

Race 1. Due to rough water from the high 18-20 mph winds on the Gulf, rugged over T course in the Bay in 50 degree temperature. Only 20 of the 24 braved the elements, and Elms didn't mind the cold, for he led them all across the starting line and never relinquished his lead to finish in 52 minutes, one of the faster races in recent years. Dr. Pete Duvoisin of Chattanooga was 2nd; Seavy 3rd; Richards 4th, and Diaz 5th, which turned out to be his worst race, later dropped.

Race 2 Wednesday looked like a good day to get in a pair of races with sun shining, a gentle breeze blowing, and temperatures appeared moving upward. But when they got to the Gulf, it was cloudy and cool, and the breeze died down. In the light air, Diaz emulated Elms of the day before. He had about a 20-second lead when he rounded the 1st windward mark and after that, the still-fair had just kept increasing his margin, finally winning by almost a full minute over Nute's boat. Seavy was just about as far behind Nute, and a big gap away came Buzz Levinson and Elms, suffering from a bad flyer along the coast that didn't pan out.



THE WINNERS - The four biggest winners pose happily with some of their prizes. (l. to r.) - Francis Seavy, who finished 2nd, Augustin Diaz, who is only 14 years old, takes a firm grip on the big prize Trophy while his father, Gonzalo (holder of many past Cuban titles who crewed for him) helps him out; and Tom Nute, who was fifth in the series but top skipper in the Winter Circuit with the Zimmerman Trophy.

— Clearwater Sun Photo.

Dying and shifting winds caused cancellation of the 2nd race that afternoon.

Race 3. Two back-to-back races on the Bay with waters relatively calm despite stiff northerly breeze that chilled skippers and spectators alike. In the first afternoon race winds 16-12 mph, Elms came back in form and led around the T course from the first mark, although Seavy closed the gap by a considerable margin over the first beating leg. Time 57 minutes. Richards came next with Diaz in a close 4th. Duvoisin was 5th.

Race 4. Started at 3:30 PM, winds 12-15 on same course. Now Seavy took the wind out of everyone's sails as he sailed to a clear-cut victory. Nute 2nd; Diaz 3rd; Richards 4th; Duvoisin 5th again. Elms trailed the leaders with a 9th place finish. At this point, Seavy was in the overall lead with 3-3-2-1 and needed to grab only another top spot to stay atop the heap. Diaz, Elms, Nute, Richards, and Duvoisin were also very much in contention, and a real tattle for the big prize loomed in Friday's two final races.

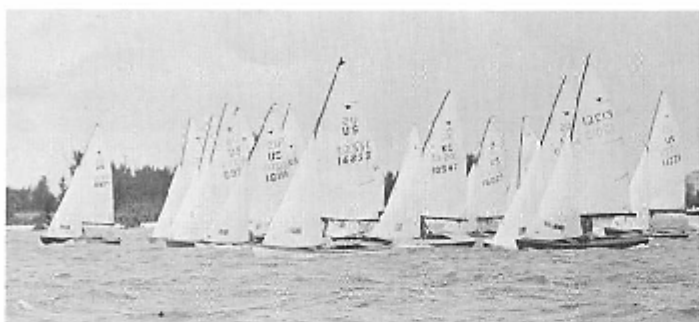
Race 5. At 1:37 with 20 starters on T course in the Gulf with winds 15-18 mph. Rather tough sailing, but not for young Diaz. He encountered little problems there as he ran away from the fleet in the 1st race, winning by a margin of nearly 2 minutes. This victory proved (with a loud bang) that he wasn't just a light air sailor of Wednesday. As a result, the contest became everybody's battle with Elms 2; Frank Levinson 3; Rich-

ards 4, while Seavy's 3th place (his worst race) put the screws on him and made it compulsory for him to beat Diaz in the final race. The time was 1 hour 13 minutes.

Race 6. This decisive race started at 3:33 PM over same O course in the Gulf as wind dropped to 10 mph, sunny, and warmer. The pepped-up Diaz kid smelled blood in the air, and couldn't be stopped with the enthusiasm and confidence of youth, he grabbed the lead and while his spread wasn't as big as in the preceding race, it was decisive enough to earn the respect of everybody in the fleet - plus the big championship title. Although Seavy made his usual good come-back fight, his 2nd place left him just 3.7 points behind Augustin. Buzz Levinson was 3rd; brother Frank 4th; Ted Wells 5th. Elms had his dumps, for he had to take DNF after hitting the starting mark. Time 1 hour 5 minutes.

The new champion, called "Timmy" by his friends, is a ninth grader who had such good marks he was able to take the week off from school without any problems; neither did he encounter any in sailing.

He has been raised in Snipes, for his father and uncle, Saul, were both very active and successful sailors when they lived in Havana, winning the Cuban title there before he was born. He learned fundamentals as a crew from an expert teacher and at Ft. Gibson, fell heir to a fine new fiberglass Snipe of his own when his mother won the drawing for a fully equipped Lofland.



EARL ELMS MAKES AN AUSPICIOUS START in the first race at Clearwater. He moved out ahead of the entire fleet (N7471) and was never headed around the course. A little discouraging to the rest of the boys, but that's the way to do it! - Sun Photo.

It was no accident that Augustin was skipper and his father crew - usually it is reversed. Guzzalo made a friendly bet with his son in the Florida Championships the week before in Miami. He agreed that whoever came in best there would skipper in this regatta with the other as crew. Inspired, Augustin sailed a very fine consistent series and almost overtook Tom Nute, the winner. His father got a 6th place, so there was no argument. He proved his mettle, and as reported last month in the Don Q regatta write-up, he is a boy to watch in the National Junior Championship races this summer.

It was a good night for the Diaz', and they were all smiles at the annual banquet Friday as they received a host of prizes. Seavy, who won the local Fleet 46 crown for the 18th time, found there was no room to carve his name on the Taver Bayly Trophy given to the Clearwater sailor who finishes highest in the race each year. Bayly started the trophy back in 1936 and Seavy's name appears on it no less than 9 times. Pat Flaherty was the best junior

skipper entered from Fleet 46, and Jane Duvoisin topped the women by crewing for her husband in 6th place.

Now to get back to the first sentence: On his way from Miami, Charlie Fowler had an accident; no one hurt, but no sailing!

In the first race, on a cold and miserable day, Ted Wells hit a mark and had to retire to the comfort of the Dry-Dock Room of the YC. But the big news was Dr. Sam Norwood, former SCIRA Commodore, who was stricken with a heart attack while sailing in. He retired to a hospital and spent the rest of the week in bed. (Sam is now in Atlanta and getting along fine - Ed.).

Still another unfortunate accident happened to Past Commodore Eddie Williams of Kansas City, Mo. He drove down to watch the regatta and had hardly arrived before someone ran into his car, nice car, huh!

Friday a big wave hit 85-year old PC Taver Bayly's 30-ft boat and the 41-year old VENTURE sunk in Clearwater Pass. All were scared, but soon rescued.

MORAL: Dangerous to be Past Commodore. - Thanks to Ed Haver of the Clearwater Sun.

Final Results - 32ND ANNUAL MIDWINTER REGATTA Clearwater, FL - March 11-14, 1968. (best 5 of 6 races)

BOAT	SKIPPER	Home Town	RACES	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts.	Fin.
19111	Augustin Diaz	Cocoa/Rt Grove, FL		5	1	4	3	1	1	13.7	1
6995	Francis Seavy	Clearwater, FL		3	3	2	1	5	2	17.4	2
17471	Earl Elms	San Diego, CA		1	5	1	9	2	4	28	3
10547	Edward Richards	Cakrville, Ont.		4	6	3	4	4	12	41.4	4
17518	Tom Nute	San Diego, CA		6	2	6	2	7	8	42.4	5
16855	Peter Duvoisin	Chattanooga, TN		2	8	5	5	6	7	47.7	6
12192	Frank Levinson	Clearwater, FL		10	4	7	6	3	4	54.4	7
17460	Alan Levinson	Indianapolis, IN		8	4	8	4	12	3	59.7	8
17556	Don Hite	Fontisco, MI		9	12	11	7	16	6	74.7	9
16291	Martin Heller	Cincinnati, OH		11	18	9	12	8	10	80	10
15580	George Crowdsale	Kansas City, MO		12	9	10	10	9	4	80	11
16025	Ted Wells	Wichita, KS		4	13	13	8	19	5	87	12
13433	Pat Flaherty	Clearwater, FL		14	11	12	14	14	11	92	13
6940	Bruce Golyer	Ft. Lauderdale, FL		7	7	4	4	10	4	95	14
13030	George Griffin	Clearwater, FL		13	16	4	16	11	9	95	15
13013	Sax/Beth Norwood	Atlanta, GA		15	15	18	11	13	13	97	16
16651	Walter Broadhead	Crystal, IL		16	14	14	13	18	4	105	17
9026	Glenn Young	Elkton, TN		4	20	16	17	15	14	112	18
8598	Bob Welton	Clearwater, TN		4	17	19	15	20	15	116	19
17532	Dick Edwards	Clearwater, FL		4	22	15	18	17	16	118	20
18010	Evertt Tenne	Chicago, IL		4	10	4	4	4	4	134	21
16678	Paul Justus	Clearwater, FL		4	21	17	19	4	4	135	22
12088	Joe Rangel	Lake Lotswater, MD		17	19	4	4	4	4	138	23
11221	Dr. James Cochran	Clearwater, FL		18	4	4	4	4	4	144	24

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