Agustin Diaz Captures 32nd Mid-Winter Crown

Contest Proved Unpredictable. Diaz Sways Many With Win By Nosing Out Heavy Trying to Get Title For 4th Time. Elms in Third Place the Rest Far Behind.

Florida usually has a fond attraction in winter season, but in Clearwater this year youth was served while the veterans found to hand of kindness extended.

The younger that came out the best was 14-year-old Agustin Diaz of Clearwater, YC near Miami. With his dad, Gonzales, crowning him, the slender skinner surprised the title of 24 of the nation's top skippers by capturing the championship overall.

One sailed of a pair of firsts in the last 2 races on Friday, winning both by large margins, and then clearly the title. He had 5-4-8-1, and dropped the 5th race of all the skippers, the defending champion and 7-time winner, Ida 3-3-2-1-2 for 174 total. Elms, 3-time National Champion, got 3rd overall with all 8 races he had 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th in the final race and dignified himself, Canadian Fred Richards was 4th and Tom Klee of California, winner of the California Circuit regular regatta, was 5th with 214.

36 entered from 18 states competed in 6 races across in this time-limited singles event starting Tuesday, Dec. 11 with 1 race, 3 on Wednesday, Dec. 1. The weather was generally cold and raw with winds strong enough to force cancellation of courses from the open Gulf of Mexico to the more sheltered waters of deep Chee-Tawnee Bay where T courses were around a triangle with a track in windsurfing were sailed instead of the O courses used by the 52 boats in the modified Olympic courses used on the Gulf. The cold winds were not typical of Florida weather.

Race 1. Due to rough water from the high 16-20 knots on the Gulf, most over 12 on the Bay in 10 degrees temperature, 36 of the 38 entrants were delayed, and Diaz didn't sail the course, but he was there all across the starting line and never relinquished his lead to finish 2nd minutes, one of the better races in recent years. The Pete Dawkins of Chicago was 2nd, Seavy 3rd, Richards 4th, and Diaz 5th, which was a surprise to be his wild race, later dropped.

Race 2. Wednesday's hot day was a good day to get in a pair of races with no sun shining, a gentle breeze blowing, no temperature appearing wrong speed. 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 2nd windward mark and after that, the skillful late start kept increasing his margin, finally winning by almost a wheel and more than Elms' sail. Seavy was just about as far behind, and a 5th away came Elms, Lawrence and Elms, suffering from a bad breeze along the coast that didn't favor our

The Winners - The four top greatest winners pose happily with some of their prizes.

(Left) - Francis Seavy, who finished 2nd, Agustin Diaz, who is only 14 years old, takes a gold ribbon on the big prize trophy while his father, Commodorebuick, of money, past Cuban titles who crossed for the first and helped him win, and Tom Klee, who was fifth in the series by top skippers in the Winter Circuit with the Zimmermann Trophy.

-- Clearwater Sun Photo.

Dying, and starting with the cancellation of the 12-meter class, Dyer continued. Diaz was very surprised to win the first race of the season, which puts him in the lead overall as he won both races in the preceding race, making it again to win the championship again. Although Seavy made his usual good sail, he is in the lead with just 1 point behind Diaz. Lawrence was 3rd, Richards 4th, and Diaz 5th, which is an upset to be his wild race.

Race 3. Saturday at 30 PM, races 12-15 at 3:30. Diaz and Richards were 1st and 2nd, Richards 3rd, and Seavy 4th. Diaz led 1st all the way with a 6-point lead. At this point, Seavy was in the overall lead with 3-3-2-1-2 and nearest to grab another top spot today, but the race was stopped. Diaz, Elms, and Richards were also very much in contention, and a real battle for the big prize was started in Friday's final races.

Race 4. At 1-37 with 32 entries on T course in the Gulf with winds 15-20 mph. The 2nd race was quite exciting. Diaz encountered some problems as he was leading the fleet at the finish line, and was leading by a margin of nearly 2 minutes. Yacht victory proved (with 1 point lead) that he was only a tight sail at 11:00.

As a result, the contest became everybody's fight for Elms 2 Philosophy and Lawrence 3 Richards 4, while Seavy's 3rd place (his worst race) put the correct on him in the spoils. The race finished with Diaz in the lead race. The time was 1 hour 13 minutes.

Race 5. This decisive race started at 9:30 PM over 30 entries in the Gulf as the wind dropped to 20 knots, and winner. The expected Diaz led in both races in the air, and couldn't be stopped with the enthusiasm and competence of Diaz, who grabbed the lead and while his speed wasn't as great as in the preceding race, it was decisive enough to earn the top spot of everybody in the fleet - plus the big championship title. Although Seavy made his usual good sail, he is in the lead with just 1 point behind Diaz. Lawrence was 3rd, Richards 4th, and Elms 5th, and Diaz 5th, which was an upset to be his wild race.

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EARL ELMS MAKES AN AUSPICIOUS START in the first race at Clearwater. He moved out ahead of the entire fleet (SVFL) 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 stopped and his father was - actually it is a Datsun. Besides, a friend and with his son in the Florida Championships the week before in Miami. He agreed that whoever came in first would slipper the next regatta with the other crew. Inspired, Augustin sailed a very fine consistent series and almost took over Tom White, the winner. His father got 2nd place, as there was no argument. He proved his mettle, and an expected last month in the Don Quixote write-up, he is a boy to watch in the National Small Sailer Championship next summer.

It was a good night for the Star's, and they were all smiles at the annual banquet Friday as they received a host of prizes. Savvy, who won the local Fleet 48 crown for the 11th time, found there was no race to carve his name on the Tower Holly Trophy given to the Clearwater sailor who finishes highest in the race each race. Savvy started the trophy back in 1935 and Savvy's name appears on it no less than 9 times. But Savvy was the best junior skipper entered from Fleet 48, and Jane Van Dyke (Savvy) captured the trophy by covering for her husband in 6th place.

Now to get back to the first sentence:

No one was surprised as Augustin had an accident - no one hurt, no sailing.

In the first race, on a cold and miserable day, Ted Wells hit a rock and had to retire to the comfort of the Day-Boat Room of the VC. But the big winner was Tom White, former SCBA Commodore, who was skidded with a boat check while sailing in. He retired to the hospital and spent the rest of the week in bed. (Nan is now in the hospital and getting along fine - Ed.).

Still another unfortunate accident to the Past Commodore Eddie W. Hunter of Kansas City, Mo. He drove down to watch the regatta and had barely arrived before someone ran into his car and took his life.

Savvy's sister is the 85-year-old PC Tower Savvy's 30th-birthday the 41-year-old VENTURE in Clearwater Pass. All were scored, but no race results. MORAL: Diameter is the Past Commodore - Thanks to Ed Haver of the Clearwater Sun.

**Final Results - 2nd Annual Midwinter Regatta Clearwater, FL - March 11-14, 1966 (Out of 6 races)**

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