

CALIFORNIAN BIG IN FLORIDA

Earl Elms Tops, Augie Diaz 2nd, Jeff Lenhart 3rd



THE WINNERS - No 19091, 18111, 18327. Earl Elms, Augie Diaz and Jeff Lenhart as they appeared with their trophies from the 34th Annual SCIRA Midwinter Regatta.
- Clearwater Sun Photo.



MAKE-UP - Just before the start of the fourth race of the Midwinters. This race was sailed on Clearwater Bay with Sand Key in the background - Clearwater Sun Photo.

Midwinters

Thirteen states and Canada provided 36 Snipers to make the 34th annual SCIRA Midwinter Championship at Clearwater the largest ever. Only four races of the scheduled six were sailed in what the locals described as the weirdest weather yet.

World and National Champ Earl Elms, after missing last year, came on strong to take the Midwinter title as well as his first Zimmerman trophy. The latter is awarded to the best scorer for the Nassau, Miami and Clearwater regattas and was donated by Past Commodore Carl Zimmerman. Augie Diaz of Miami was second, closely followed by Californian Jeff Lenhart.

The regatta started on Tuesday after a long trek to the Gulf. The pass is shoaled over but it is possible to get out. The fleet was divided into 4 groups, each with a guide and after much sailing everyone reached the starting line. Shifting winds caused some delays but the first race got under way in northwesterly winds at about 12 knots. The seas were plain sloppy and presented problems to the lake sailors. The Floridians stated that there was never that much chop for that wind.

RACE 1. It was Jeff Lenhart from almost the beginning. A good start put him at the windward mark ahead of Dick Tillman. He continued on to a relatively easy win. Elms put on a charge, gaining two boats in two legs of the race and eventually took a second. Augie was third followed by Gonzalo with Don Cochran, Jr. in fifth. Tillman dropped to sixth while Francis Seavy, defending champion and eight time winner was seventh. Francis said he just couldn't get his boat going. "She's got a flat bottom and we just need a little more air than the others to move out."

RACE 2. The winds dropped to around 8 in the second race but the chop didn't. However, it didn't bother Elms although it was not an easy win. He had a tacking duel on the final leg and just did edge out Gonzalo Diaz at the line. Lenhart came

across next with Augie right behind. Tillman was fifth and Frank Levinson, forgetting the many obligations as regatta chairman, was sixth.

Buzz Levinson and Tom Rolfes broke rudders in the second race and spent quite a time waiting for a tow. The rescue boats were busy trying to rescue Dick Edwards who capsized and his borrowed boat sank.

The standings after these two races was Elms, Lenhart, Gonzalo Diaz, Augie Diaz and Dick Tillman, all looking forward to the next day's races. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful fish fry that evening.

On Wednesday the winds piped up to over 20 knots and the race committee decided that it was marginal, especially if continued to build as predicted. It would have been a long way to South Bay and even tougher beating back into the northwester. There were many howls from the heavy-weather boys but with two more days there should not have been any problem in getting four more races.

The prediction for Thursday was too much wind to sail in the Gulf and there was until everyone got to South Bay. But the wind never got over 15 and occasionally dropped to almost a drifter.

RACE 3. With another display of fine sailing, Elms won with an almost unbelievable margin of over three minutes. Tillman was second boat across, just edging out Don Cochran while Augie was fourth and Gonzalo fifth.

RACE 4. The finish of this race was much closer. On the second beat of the triangular course a tremendous shift enabled the boats on the port side of the course to round the windward mark without tacking. It also put a number of boats down the drain. Augie won this one with Earl second and Seavy third. Lenhart took a fourth and Terry Timm a fifth.

Friday morning greeted the skippers with winds out of the south well over 20 in the protected area of the dock. The day's races were called and not a howl was heard. As it turned out, after a brief rain shortly after noon, the wind dropped to 10 but by that time the party under the shed was in full swing.

SCIRA MIDWINTER CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA CLEARWATER					
Skipper	Home Port	Races			
		1	2	3	4 Pts
19091 Earl Elva	San Diego	3	1	1	2 6 1
18111 Agustin Diaz	Hiami	3	4	4	1 21 2
18327 Jeff Lenhart	San Diego	1	3	7	4 26 3
10111 Gonzalo Diaz	Niami	4	2	5	7 34 4
13046 Dick Tillman	Charleston	7	5	2	6 37 5
5995 Francis Seavy	Clearwater	6	7	8	3 44 6
19083 Frank Lavinson	Clearwater	12	6	9	11 61 7
16228 Tom Nute	San Diego	9	10	13	9 65 8
18917 Don Cochran	Clearwater	3	8	3	NP 68 9
16853 Pete Duvoisin	Chattanooga	11	9	17	14 70 10
17731 Keith Zars	San Antonio	19	11	11	17 82 11
19059 Don Hite	Detroit	13	13	20	12 82 11
19021 Bent Poulsen	Oakville, Can.	15	16	10	18 83 13
6156 Don Reader	Clearwater	10	12	14	25 85 14
11900 Larry White	Annapolis	14	18	18	15 89 15
26601 Bob Dean	Fl. Nyssa	17	22	19	8 90 16
18501 Buzz Lavinson	Indianapolis	3	NP	6	19 91 17
14301 Tom Eastwood	Camden, N.J.	21	19	16	13 93 18
7428 Buzz Lamb	Clearwater	21	14	17	20 99 19
17165 Charlie Wright	Acton Lake	23	17	25	22 108 20
18104 Tom Rolfe	Acton Lake	18	NP	22	10 109 21
16025 Ted Wells	Wichita	15	15	29	26 110 22
17388 Bruce Mylrea	Atlanta	33	21	21	16 115 23
18348 Terry Tins	Ann Arbor	NS	NS	15	5 115 24
16684 John O'Donnell	Atlanta	23	24	28	21 120 25
13413 Gary Sorenson	Clearwater	28	29	23	31 127 26
11662 Bill Simons	Chattanooga	27	23	27	29 130 27
8598 Bob Welton	Clearwater	25	26	24	NP 132 28
18625 Frank Vincent	Springfield	29	25	30	24 132 28
6940 Bruce Colyer	St. Petersburg	22	20	NS	NS 138 30
11749 Ashley Warner	St. Petersburg	31	30	32	27 144 31
19062 Mike Zalazl	Acton Lake	34	28	24	NP 143 32
11559 Phil Blair	Clearwater	32	31	31	28 146 33
18109 Herb Brokhot	Crystal Lake	30	27	NS	NS 153 34
18333 Dick Goppert	Missouri YC	35	32	NP	NP 157 35
17337 Dick Edwards	Cuba Lake	26	NP	NS	NS 157 36



TO THE GULF - Boats appear as if sailing on land. Actually the camera was located on the west side of the northern tip of Clearwater Beach. It illustrates the circuitous route through Dunedin Pass. The pass was shoaled by a hurricane in 1960 and has not been dredged since.

- Clearwater Sun Photo.



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