



Nautical Notes

Jack Wyatt

'Heartbreak' Regatta

"This regatta had more heartbreaks than any I've ever experienced," sighed Waikiki Yacht Club's Frank Lippman, who finished fourth in last weekend's windless State Sailing Championship on Kaneohe Bay.

"More than once I sailed into a calm only to watch my competition drift past. But I consider myself luckier than most. At least I finished in the top five."

But all were not so fortunate as Lippman. One disgruntled crewman, whose skipper finished out of the top 10 for the first time ever, likened the no-wind contest to a nautical disaster.

"With that variable and shifty light wind, at least two of the four heats should have been postponed and restarted," he stated. "In one race we sat becalmed for 45 minutes without so much as a breeze, and in another heat, the wind—what there was of it—shifted 60 degrees. This was for the championship. The race committee should have made changes."

But for all of the weekend's windless woes, Kui Lim of Waikiki Yacht Club couldn't have been more pleased. Lim, with brother Yal and Sam Gilbert, shocked the 22-boat fleet with their consistency—four consecutive second places to win the championship by 13 big points over Glenn Clark Jr. Last year, off Waikiki, Lim won the title by one point over Clark.

"We had our share of breaks—both good and bad," explained the 22-year-old sailing champion.

"There were a couple races where I think that if the wind had been steady that we could have won. On the other hand, we came from behind in races as the result of being on the right side of a wind shift. I think it all evened out."

According to Lim, he had several things going for him. "My crew and I worked hard to get the most out of what little breeze there was," he said. "plus our crew perhaps weighed less than most teams and were

better suited for the light wind.

"And I feel that our boat, Ozone, with its fast sails, were right for these wind conditions. I was pleased that we won the championship for Waikiki Yacht Club. This was their first State title since the competition began 14 years ago."

But for most contestants—those other than the leaders—the regatta was sheer misery. Consider that seven-time titlist Cy Gillette, generally acknowledged as Hawaii's best helmsman, finished a lowly 11th place in the final standings with a score that included two 15th places; three-time winner Charles Dole recorded back-to-back 11th places, and perennial threat Les Vasconcellos, Jr., in the third race, saw his comfortable lead diminish to 19th place when his boat found a calm.

On the positive side, Windward Oahu sailor Bob Holland, who placed 13, 16, 16 in the first three races, cranked out a win in the finale.

"Some of my competitors claim that my last race victory was luck," he said, "but I contend that's how I generally finish and that my first three races were the flukes."

Third-place series finisher Tom Carpenter, as a result of a possible break or two, came from behind in two heats—sixth-to-first in one race, and 19th-to-sixth in another—while runnerup Clark may also have had a little luck on his side.

"By placing first and third on Saturday, I was tied for first place in the series and more than satisfied," said Clark, "but on Sunday when I placed eighth and ninth things kind of fell apart. But it could have been worse. In one race I had to come from 17th place to crack the top 10. It was that kind of series."

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS: 1. Kui Lim, Waikiki Yacht Club, 2-2-2 (8 points); 2. Glenn Clark, Jr., Lahaina (Maui) Yacht Club, 1-3-8 (21 points); 3. Tom Carpenter, Kaneohe Yacht Club, 6-1-6-11 (24 points); 4. Frank Lippman, WYC, 10-5-12-3 (30 points); 5. Peter Dillingham, Outrigger Canoe Club, 8-6-4-13 (31 points); 6. Kenny Watts, KYC, 0-4-1-6 (33 points); 7. Les Vasconcellos, Jr., WYC, 3-7-19-4 (33 points); 8. Charles Dole, KYC, 5-11-11-7 (34 points); 9. Mark Walker, KYC, 11-9-14-5 (39 points); 10. John Myrdal, KYC, 9-13-3-16 (41 points).

Hawaii's single-handed Sailing Championship, sponsored by the University of Hawaii, will be held this weekend on Kaneohe Bay.

The six race, two-day competition, which will be held in Laser dinghies, is open to all sailors from Hawaii Yacht Racing Association Clubs. Skipper's will meet at 9 a.m., prior to the first race on Saturday at Kaneohe Yacht Club.