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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1985

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HOBIE
16
*world
championship*

THE BOYS FROM DOWN



BY BIFF ROBERTS

N case anybody thought the America's Cup victory by the Australians was a fluke, Garry Metcalf, Brett Dryland and Ian Bashford thought they would come over to America, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida to be exact, and sweep the Absolut Vodka, Hobie 16 World Championship, the championship of the world's most popular catamaran class. Although it was no surprise that the Australians did well, it was surprising that they finished one, two, three and that Garry Metcalf, an unknown skipper to most Americans, emerged the winner.

Going into the event, Enrique Figueroa, fresh from his victory at the U.S. Hobie 16 National Championship, Hobie Alter Jr. and

TOWN UNDER COME OUT ON TOP

Brett Dryland, who left Americans stunned in San Francisco with his victory at the Absolut Vodka Hobie 18 U.S. National Championship, were the favorites. Alter was the reigning champ, having won his title in Tahiti in 1982. Dryland was sailing so well that some anticipated another sweep of victories. Figueroa nosed out Keith Christensen in South Carolina to take the U.S. title and had lived in Ft. Walton Beach long enough to become accustomed to the course and current conditions. Keith Christensen, who had been the runner up in South Carolina and was the reigning Division 2 champ was also thought to be in contention since he seemed to be hitting a streak of good sailing.

When the skippers arrived in Ft. Walton Beach, the town was ready and waiting. Thanks to local Fleet 178 workers, the Chamber of Commerce, and civic leaders of all types, the turnout for the opening ceremonies and pre-race press conferences was tremendous. This was going to be one sailboat event that was not going to be ignored by the local community. One reason for this was undoubtedly due to the fact that Hobie Cat sailing is as much a part of the Ft. Walton Beach scene as fried shrimp and beer at the Hog's Breath Saloon (more about that later). From the moment the first Hobie Cat sailors set foot on the whitest sand in the world (a documented fact, just ask any Ft. Walton resident, he'll be happy to tell you), local townfolk were making sure everybody was happy and having a good time.

Having a good time in Ft. Walton Beach is pretty hard not to do, especially when the entire town seems to exist only for that purpose. The two industries in Ft. Walton Beach are tourism and Eglin Air Force Base, the largest military installation in the free world (just ask any Ft. Walton Beach resident he'll be happy to tell you). The area is a boater's paradise. The Intra-coastal Waterway snakes along most of the town's mileage and eventually forms a large, shallow bay. The Gulf of Mexico is not only warm (a constant 80 degrees, just ask any resident, he'll be happy to tell you) but on some days, it is so emerald green that one might mistake it for the Caribbean or the coastline of the Bahamas. Although there were some wind problems at the championship, there wasn't any day when the wind refused to show up.

The number of skippers and the number of countries they represented was amazing. The only disappointment in the turnout was the failure of the Tahitians to arrive.

This was especially unfortunate since the sailing ability of the Tahitians is well known, especially that of Kitty Salmon, a top Hobie skipper for a number of years. Otherwise, sailors came from Bahrain, Japan, Singapore, Netherlands, France, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Sweden, Germany, Brazil, Switzerland, Denmark, and Canada. This gathering made the Absolut Vodka Hobie 16 World Championship one of the most international sailing events ever held.

The welcoming ceremonies presented a great outpouring of town boosterism. First came the traditional Hobie Cat Mixing of Waters, during which sailors from the various countries pour a vile of water from their country into a silver bowl to demonstrate the fellowship which exists between the countries and the sailors themselves, and a brief benediction. Then the waters were poured into the Gulf of Mexico. Immediately afterwards, a helicopter lifted off from the beach with some of the army's crack paratroopers aboard. With smoke trailing from their boots, they glided down to earth in a stunning display of aerial acrobatics. As one hovered just a few feet over the crowd, a few spectators backed up and turned to run away because they thought the skydiver was going to land on them.

By the time the qualifying races were over, every skipper was eager to get started with the championship series. There had been good wind for the qualifying round, but, as the start of the first race was approaching, Beach Captain Tony Lewis had doubts about letting the boats off the beach. With low wind and unusually high breakers on the beach, Lewis advised some delay. Soon, however, the wind picked up briskly, and the boats were sent off for the first race of the world championship.

It was a colorful beginning to a week filled with colorful sights such as mark roundings. With all the excellent sailors racing in the same race, and all knowing which way to go on the course, it was inevitable that many would arrive at the marks at the same time. Some of the mark roundings were a little crowded. Well, maybe a lot crowded. "That has to be the most amazing mark rounding I have ever seen in my life," said Hobie Cat president Doug Campbell who has been to many regattas. "Just look at that," he said pointing to the dozen boats which arrived at the mark simultaneously. Here's where the colorful, multicultural part comes in. Anybody within 100 feet of the course got an interesting

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education on how many different languages the universal oaths translate into. The funny thing is, each sailor, whether he knew the language or not, knew what the other sailor meant during those mark bunch ups. Incredibly, there were very few touches at these mark roundings, a tribute to sailing ability and, despite the epithets, courtesy.

The languages on the beach were equally as diverse. Fans from Europe and Australia and all parts of the U.S. followed their friends and family to Ft. Walton Beach. As Lewis would read out the standings at each mark rounding, a group of German girls would wait for the name of their hero and upon hearing it would sigh "Ahh. Ja das gut, huh?" and all these foreign languages were mixing with the "Yalls" and "Heys" of the South. (Although, as one reporter was firmly told by a local, Ft. Walton Beach is not really the South. This despite the fact that grits and red eye gravy are served with breakfast.)

If there is any doubt that Ft. Walton Beach is in the south, the name of the local hangout for Hobie sailors, and just about everybody else in town, should settle the argument. It's called the Hog's Breath and it serves up a drink called a hog snort. In fact, during the nights of the regatta, hog snorts and the Absolut sponsored welcome, cut and awards dinners turned Ft. Walton Beach into Fun City.

Other evenings the sailors gathered around the charity dunking booth to try their luck at sinking their favorite sailor.

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Absolut Vodka Hobie 16 World Championship
Fort Walton Beach, Florida
October 6-13, 1984
Championship Series

Skipper/Crew		1/2	3/4	5/6	7/8	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1. Garry Metcalf/C. Metcalf	Australia	3	2	3/4	3	3	13	3/4	3	54	27 1/2
2. Brett Dryland/Tracy Wood	Australia	2	2	2	6	20	6	2	5	5	31
3. Ian Bashford/J. Bashford	Australia	4	24	3	3/4	7	14	7	3/4	3	39 1/2
4. Keith Christensen/Chris Veneman	California, U.S.	3/4	3	3/4	3/4	16	25	11	17	2	51 1/4
5. Jeff Alter/Sue Brenny	California, U.S.	8	3/4	2	9	17	3/4	9	11	18	57 1/2
6. Enrique Figueroa/	California, U.S.	2	9	13	7	24	12	57	10	3/4	77 3/4
7. Carlton Tucker/Kelly O'Brien	California, U.S.	5	21	24	5	18	3	4	13	9	78
8. Hobie Alter, Jr./K. K. O'Brien	California, U.S.	6	15	4	30	26	2	3	4	24	84
9. Bob Whitehurst/Barry Cochran	Florida, U.S.	3/4	8	5	4	30	19	14	21	21	90 3/4
10. Tom Materna/D. Hennelly	California, U.S.	14	5	4	11	8	38	15	20	27	104
11. Sergio Gama/Al. Raceio	Brazil	5	10	3	42	12	10	13	44	10	105
12. Richard Karran/R. Hille	Florida, U.S.	12	11	6	11	23	20	30	18	6	107
13. Carlos Bierkarck/	Brazil	25	36	8	18	6	7	21	9	14	108
14. Miles Wood/Paula Alter	Florida, U.S.	9	36	11	10	13	9	10	22	26	110
15. Alan Egusa/Ross Taylor	California, U.S.	10	9	40	10	3/4	40	23	12	8	112 3/4
16. Tom Whitehurst/Bill Whitehurst	Florida, U.S.	4	33	10	10	22	4	22	6	31	121
17. Gustavo Leal/J. Escudero	Brazil	3	20	30	13	44	5	25	2	33	131
18. David Bliss/David C. Robinson	Massachusetts, U.S.	19	42	29	2	19	4	57	27	4	146
19. Rick Eddington/Greg Drum	Texas, U.S.	7	10	24	8	56	46	6	6	13	157
20. Brian Downham/	South Africa	36	12	5	4	50	24	12	32	34	159
21. Robbie Brice/Linda Bowerlind	Florida, U.S.	12	6	20	17	31	8	31	43	47	168
22. Carsten Eli Hansen/	Maryland, U.S.	15	30	9	39	40	16	38	8	15	170
23. Mike Shearer/Stephanie Wood	Utah, U.S.	54	18	8	12	48	18	8	39	20	171
24. Anthony Duchatel/Penny Burns	Australia	8	43	18	29	25	15	33	28	23	179
25. Scott Ward/Steve Fields	California, U.S.	32	33	35	7	14	28	17	16	32	179
26. Robert Whittington/Cathy Whittington	Texas, U.S.	32	35	15	19	22	17	16	33	28	182
27. Andrew Hurlford/Beth Hurlford	Australia	51	3	23	18	43	11	36	7	44	185
28. David Kruyt/Michael Kruyt	South Africa	9	19	56	16	35	29	19	45	17	189
29. Gregory Smith	Michigan, U.S.	27	16	7	41	10	33	34	23	39	189
30. Blaine Dodds/June Dodds	South Africa	6	41	30	2	41	47	29	27	16	192
31. Henderickson M. Schwarz	Denmark	13	5	13	53	39	21	45	14	46	196
32. Mike Collier/Brad Rolfe	South Africa	29	27	27	15	11	48	24	41	25	199
33. Tony Laurent/Christophe Fabre	France	36	34	16	16	29	57	35	24	19	209
34. Clifford McCarty, Jr./	Connecticut, U.S.	16	4	18	8	42	54	37	36	50	211
35. Steve King/Pip King	Australia	16	19	36	21	37	34	28	26	48	217
36. Ian Burke/Steve Gray	Australia	23	12	17	6	46	35	44	38	43	218
37. Ouno Van Der Platt/J. Van Der Platt	Holland	31	52	5	23	33	31	26	42	29	220
38. Jan Neergard/R. Nielsen	Denmark	29	8	23	25	52	41	22	34	38	220
39. Don Algie/K. Clover	Australia	14	25	53	14	9	49	49	52	12	224
40. Mike Montague/G. Russell	California, U.S.	30	6	27	17	54	23	41	40	41	225
41. Lange/	Holland	20	15	45	13	57	50	27	50		7 227
42. Todd Brooks/	Florida, U.S.	10	4	37	35	32	56	47	25	37	227
43. Geoff Walsh/Debbie Carmichael	California, U.S.	25	17	25	32	34	43	48	46	11	233
44. Dave Lung	Hawaii, U.S.	18	49	32	15	53	42	32	15	31	234
45. Garth Loudon/G. Loudon	South Africa	17	18	41	20	28	27	54	37	49	237
46. James Glenden/Jeff Crompton	Delaware, U.S.	18	27	9	55	27	37	18	51	53	240
47. Larry Kalata/Arthur Sencil	Florida, U.S.	17	29	44	9	21	26	51	47	51	244
48. Peter Spyker/M. Sterk	Holland	49	37	6	24	5	44	40	53	40	245
49. Tony Van Oeveren/	Holland	7	25	31	43	15	53	42	55	30	246
50. Pat Porter/Laurie Robertson	California, U.S.	13	7	39	42	47	51	20	48	36	252
51. Hans J. Bress/U. Bress	West Germany	37	19	10	33	51	32	56	29	42	253
52. Don Balthaser/Karen Horton	Texas, U.S.	21	32	7	5	38	55	50	56	56	264
53. Paul Pascoe/J. Pascoe	Australia	11	7	50	36	45	39	46	49	35	268
54. Enrique Junco	Puerto Rico	15	3/4	56	51	36	52	52	21	45	272 3/4
55. Ian "Fresh" Burns/Darlene Matuska	Australia	9	46	14	49	55	36	55	30	52	291
56. Shaun Ferry/Damian Johnson	South Africa	46	23	15	19	49	45	53	54	56	304

Skipper/Crew		Total
57. Paul Marner/Randy Lake	Canada	69
58. Paul Thomas/Peter Tomain	South Africa	72
59. George Zorn/Cindy Zorn	Mississippi, U.S.	72
60. Alan Lowry Jr.	Brazil	74
61. Randy MacConnell/Chris Carroll	New Jersey, U.S.	75
62. Mark Ralph/Sheila Holmes	Texas, U.S.	76
63. Jim Hennessy/Lee Grinham	Australia	76
64. Steve Leo/Jo Ellen Haynes	California, U.S.	78
65. Alan Lawrence/Gary Shaban	South Africa	80
66. Bob Seaman/Jana Seaman	California, U.S.	80
67. Dave Bonesteel/Gretchen Bonesteel	Michigan, U.S.	80
68. John Dalton/Kathrine Raper	Florida, U.S.	81
69. Thorsten Wycisk/Kris Von Kroge	Germany	81
70. Dean Froome/San McFaul	Hawaii, U.S.	83
71. David Sloan/Kevin Miller	Florida, U.S.	84
72. Bob Muggleton/Dincy Fain	Australia	85
73. Dorian Goldberg/Francisco Mayni	Puerto Rico	87
74. Noel Kelley, III/Susan Welch	Texas, U.S.	88
75. John Lattman/Chance Gaston	Florida, U.S.	88
76. David Shearer/Kari Sandberg	Utah, U.S.	89
77. Birger Laing/Oliver Laing	West Germany	91
78. Bill Buckley/Russ Blake	Canada	93
79. Kevin Smith/Jarrett Melvin	Florida, U.S.	94
80. Joost De Groot/Monique De Groot	Brunei	95
81. Jim Brock/Don Adams	Alabama, U.S.	97
82. Andre Morse/Gerry Vedder	South Africa	97
83. Wally Meyers/Paul Christy	New Jersey, U.S.	97
84. Raymond Cattin/Christin Tiersbier	Switzerland	97
85. Rick Tate/Noel Ryan	Australia	98
86. John Liefeld/Jim Terpstra	Canada	99
87. John L. Flanagan III/Bruce Hart	Maryland, U.S.	101
88. Jose Marti	Singapore	101
89. Colin Hancox	South Africa	102
90. Robert Heibron/Marleen DeWilde	Holland	102
91. John Lockwood/Cathy Lockwood	Australia	105
92. Mike Lemon/Nick Bailey	Virgin Islands	105
93. Andy Shearer/Marilyn Shearer	Utah, U.S.	106
94. Peter Birch/Meredith Malouf	Australia	108
95. Warren Collier/Donovan Adler	South Africa	109
96. Eric Cook	South Africa	109
97. Yutaka Yazawa/Fhiroshi Satoh	Japan	109
98. Colin Whitehead/Robyn Whitehead	South Africa	111
99. Mark Pryke/Jamie Morrison	Australia	116
100. Age De Vries/Ellfriede De Vries	Bahrain	120
101. Bob Henderson/Marilyn Henderson	Australia	121
102. Jan Wycker/Rob Wycker	Holland	122
103. Lachlan MacFarlane/Phillip Bisset	Australia	122
104. Peter Henning/R. Aveling	South Africa	123
105. Jack Sammons	Florida, U.S.	123
106. Bobby Wythes	Hawaii, U.S.	130
107. Steve Eichner/Lorie Eichner	Guam	131
108. Derek Casel Brown	New Zealand	132
109. Mark Fallwell/Libby Waters	New Zealand	136
110. Andres Karasa/Edouardo Riveros	Venezuela	142
111. Geoff Partidge/William Maione	Australia	149
112. Joe Bruckner	Virgin Islands	157

1984 Absolut Vodka Hobie 18 National Championships
San Francisco, California
September 23-29, 1984

Skipper/Crew		1/2	3/4	5/6	7/8	9/10	1	2
1. Brett Dryland/Scott Ward	Australia	3/4	3/4	3/4	3/4	3/4	3/4	2
2. Bob Seaman/Dan Oltmans	CA	2	2	2	4	2	16	3/4
3. Jeff Alter/Floyd White	CA	3/4	5	3/4	2	3/4	4	17
4. Hobie Alter, Jr./Dick Blount	CA	15	9	2	2	2	3	7
5. Miles Wood/Dan Mangus	FL	22	6	5	4	3	5	
6. Allan Timms/Misha Orloff	CA	4	3/4	18	3	4	10	8
7. Paul Parizeau/Karen Parizeau	CA	3	3	4	5	6	7	28
8. Dave Clacher/Greg Loose	FL	7	4	33	7	8	2	21
9. Matt Miller/M. Hammond	CA	11	7	11	12	3	3	22
10. Steve Cary/Deanna Link	CA	5	10	10	3/4	5	12	14
11. Wayne Schaler/Jerry King	CA	2	13	3	3	17	11	9
12. Pat Porter/John Poncin	CA	6	10	14	3	8	6	13
13. Tony Probst/Jackie Rupp	CA	8	5	8	10	12	4	24
14. Jim Kimball/	CA	9	6	6	11	10	15	32
15. Rick Brown/Kathy Brown	CA	16	4	9	9	5	34	26
16. Roger Neathery/Doug Johnson	CA	3	11	16	8	6	22	15
17. Tighe Huber/Kevin Pellone	TX	13	3	12	16	7	24	16
18. Craig Wright/P. Taylor	CA	8	17	7	7	14	7	35
19. Krist Biakanjan/Bette High	CA	10	7	7	13	9	9	25
20. Michael Rayfuse/Robert Schnieder	CA	7	18	3	12	4	24	13
21. Mark Schleecker/Rob Windender	NJ							
22. Jason Bradley		20	21	17	5	7	10	5
23. Steve Timm/Sue Brown	CA	18	19	31	6	10	2	12
24. James Severs/L. Severs	OR	6	11	25	14	13	13	19
25. Tom Poore/D. Littlefield	CA	9	9	19	14	9	9	27
26. Paul Tobie/Mike Forbert	CA	4	2	8	8	36	13	40
27. Mike Shearer/Bob Shay	UT	14	20	13	33	19	22	4
28. Peter King/R. Kitowski	CA	12	17	21	13	26	11	39
29. Corky Aucreman/Barbara Aucreman	CA	5	16	10	21	32	19	6
30. Brian Boschma/Ed Wong	CA	26	19	5	17	11	20	11
31. Key Cozart/Phyllis Abel	FL	36	26	9	11	21	8	10
32. David Smith/Katherine Smith	CA	15	12	15	16	22	29	18
33. John Cuttillo/M. Cutillo	NY	15	8	13	33	15	17	30
34. Lance Dunn/Karen Dunn	NC	21	12	12	32	15	5	36
35. Phillip Alotis/Brendan Myers	CA	24	24	20	22	12	8	33


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HOBIE 14s

Continued from page 48

was third with 9.25 points, Tucker fourth with 12.75 points and David Rodgers was fifth with 17.00 points.

As Sunday dawned bright and cheery with no trace of rain and little trace of wind, the racers assembled for the final day to determine the national champion. Some smiled while others fretted and fumed about the lack of wind. The wind was from the south now about five to ten m.p.h. as Banks called the racers off the beach for the first race of the day. Fred McIntosh exacted a win while Carlton Tucker sailed to a second place finish. Bob Bergstedt claimed third with Bob Wall finishing fourth. Fifth went to David Rodgers while Curry could do no better than sixth. Figueroa finished twelfth while Alter slipped to a disappointing twentieth. A fabulous lunch of delicious Hobie hot dogs greeted the racers after this first race, but all knew that time was fleeting if Banks was going to have three races. Boats were tuned, hot dogs eaten and all were ready to try again to master the Indian River with its tricky tides, shifting winds and sometimes monstrous boat wakes.

Tucker claimed the win in Race 12 while Rodgers finished a close second. Whitehurst managed a third as Dick Blount finished fourth. Figueroa finished eighth, Curry ninth and Alter could only manage a fourteenth. As the standings were reviewed prior to the final race of the series, Curry was first with 15 points closely followed by Tucker with 15.50 points. At this point, it was down to only Curry and Tucker. Curry's plan, based on the scores that were posted, was just to cover Tucker and finish in front of him, but he failed to take into account the throw out. If the throw out was added back into the scores, Tucker would be in the lead with a seventh for a throw out while Curry would be 1.5 points behind with his throwout, a ninth, added back in. Curry could still win but his plan could be faulty. The first leg saw Tucker pull ahead of Curry but neither was in front of the pack. On the downwind leg of the course, a three (A-C-A-B-C), Tucker fouled another competitor and pulled out to do a 360 degree penalty turn. When he resumed racing, he was behind Curry who was in fifth position. If this was to remain as it was, Curry would win and Tucker would again finish second. Tucker tacked at "C" mark and went to the unfavorable side of the course hoping that Curry would follow him; he did. As the wind began to clock, they fell further behind. Curry was in front of Tucker, but Tucker had taken Curry out of the race with no chance of recovering the fifth spot that Curry would need to win the championship. Tucker packed it in and went to the beach to celebrate the championship that had eluded him for so many years. 

HOBIE 16s

Continued from page 43

Tucker the elder spent Carlton Tucker's inheritance trying to put his son in the tank. Hobie olympic events that have become a tradition, such as the innertube relay and water walking, also helped keep the sailors, and, better yet, the spectators, entertained. Skippers and crews danced the night away under the warm Florida skies on the patio of the Ramada Inn. Still, despite the fun and more fun, this was the world championship and nobody forgot about the racing.

In the first race, Keith Christensen, sailing with Chris Veneman and Bob Whitehurst sailing with Barry Cochran both took firsts. Garry Metcalf with brother Chris and Enrique Figueroa with Melissa Scott took seconds (first round racing was done in two fleets with each fleet exchanging boats with the other). While this was not completely unexpected, people did begin to ask: "Who is Garry Metcalf?" In the second race of the first day, Enrique Junco of Puerto Rico showed a brief flash of brilliance by winning his second race. Jeff Alter also placed first with Dryland and Metcalf each placing second. Christensen took third.

Day two saw Keith Christensen take two bullets and a strong, if not commanding lead. By throwing out his earlier third place, Christensen carried only 2.25 points to Metcalf's 4.75 points. Dryland carried seven points with Bashford close behind with 7.75 points. After two days, Christensen and Veneman looked like the team that would keep the title in the United States. Unless he faltered.

But Christensen showed no signs of faltering. When asked during the Absolut sponsored cut party if he felt confident, he shrugged and said "I have to feel confident." Was he going to win? "We'll see. I'm in first now."

Christensen's confidence proved to be short lived. In the first race of the finals, Christensen got off to a slow start and, just when he appeared to be moving up through the fleet, hit a mark and was forced to reround. He took 16 points, but, since he could use that as his throwout, was still in first place.

In the next race, Christensen gulped 25 points and, since Metcalf's last two races added a total of 16 points to his score, with 13 of those being throwout, Christensen had given up 13 points to Metcalf in just two races. He had also given up the lead. Christensen knocked himself out of the running in the next two races by adding 11 then 17 points to his total while Metcalf finished first and third, Dryland second and fifth and Bashford seventh and first. A last race second could not save Christensen from fourth place.

Meanwhile, a somewhat less significant battle was going on for sixth through

eighth places. Four heavyweights, Figueroa and Tucker, Hobie Alter Jr. and Whitehurst were struggling for sixth place (Jeff Alter was secure in fifth.) Although Figueroa and Scott had a better first half of the series than did Tucker, Tucker pulled down a third and a fourth in the second half while Figueroa stumbled. It took a first by Figueroa in the last race of the event to clinch sixth.

Hobie Alter Jr., sailing with K.K. O'Brien, sailed somewhat erratically during the first half, but, after the cut, he sailed to a second, third and fourth until taking 24 points in the last race of the series, thereby eliminating any chance of overtaking Figueroa or Tucker. Since Whitehurst failed to break into the top ten even once during the second half, he was unable to answer Alter's string of low scores and fell to ninth. Tom Materna rounded out the top ten.

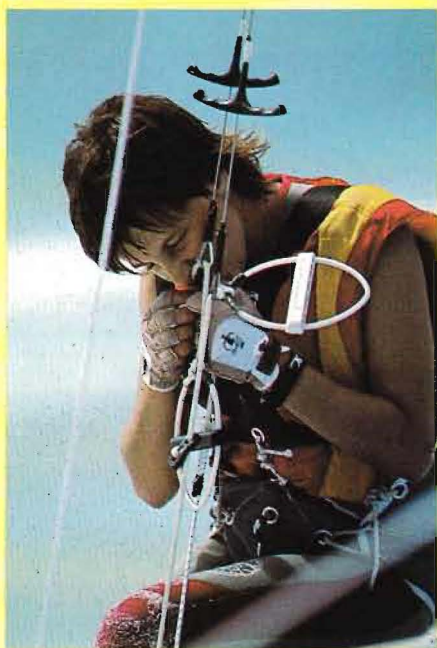
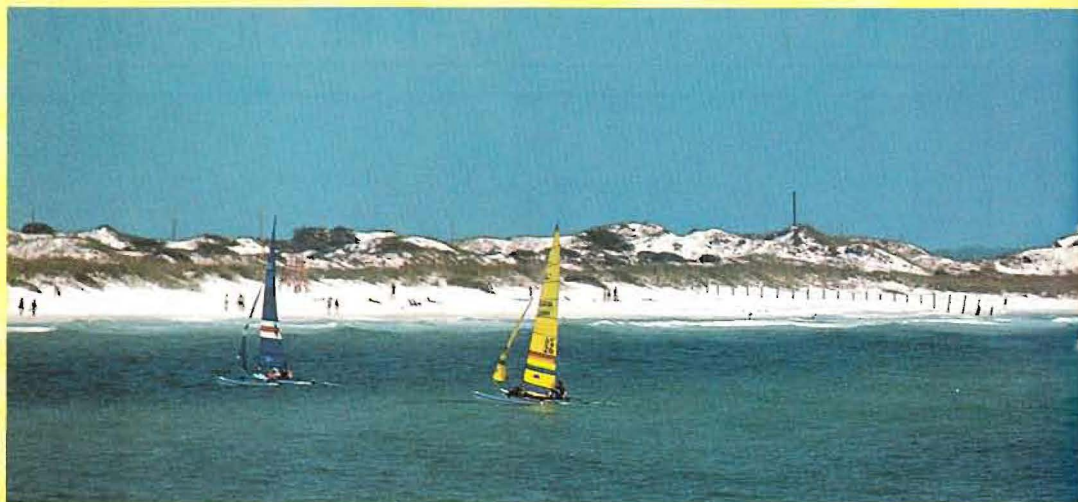
By the time the dust cleared, Christensen was 11.5 points behind Bashford. Dryland came in second with 31 points and Metcalf took the victory (despite finishing last in the final race due to a hull filling with water) with 27.50 points. Jeff Alter, Enrique Figueroa, Carlton Tucker, Hobie Alter Jr., Bob Whitehurst and Tom Materna rounded out the top ten.

At the awards ceremony, the Americans took consolation in the fact that they captured seven of the top ten places, but it was definitely the Aussies' night. The Metcalf brothers triumphantly accepted the trophy presented to them by Hobie Alter Sr., and Banks.

At the dinner, special thanks were given to hosting dealer, Jim, Lorraine and Carlton Tucker of Playground Sails, Fleet 178 members who helped in many ways including supervising the Hobie olympics and making the trophies which featured sand dollars mounted on cut stone. Dave Sniveley, Jack Pranzarone and Lynn Stone received special thanks. Eric Visser was lauded for his publicity work, as was Kelly O'Brien who helped with the program. Roberta O'Brien, Susan Coolter, Alve Thornton, Susan Gabriel and Cecil Phillips were thanked for providing lunches and Jerry of the Hog's Breath was recognized for the barbeque and fish sandwiches. The Ft. Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce headed by Jerry Melvin and the Emerald Coast Group were thanked for their support. Doug Campbell, John Whitmore, John Schuch, John Dinsdale and Bob McDonald worked the protest committee and Steve Ross, David Yates, Mindy Carder and skipper Larry Boyd worked the committee boat. Steve Day, Ron Kight, Eric Renelt, John Kidder, Jerry Dees, Joe East, Lee McDonald, Rick Bennett, Dyson Patterson, Luis Socalrasi, John Mitchell, Rod Clodfelter, De Anna Lewis, Sandy Zerlin, Gordon Thomas, Gordon Thomas Jr., John Barnett, John Schuch, Mel Wills and Larry Chisholm manned the chase boats and were thanked for their efforts. 

HOBIE 16 *world championship*

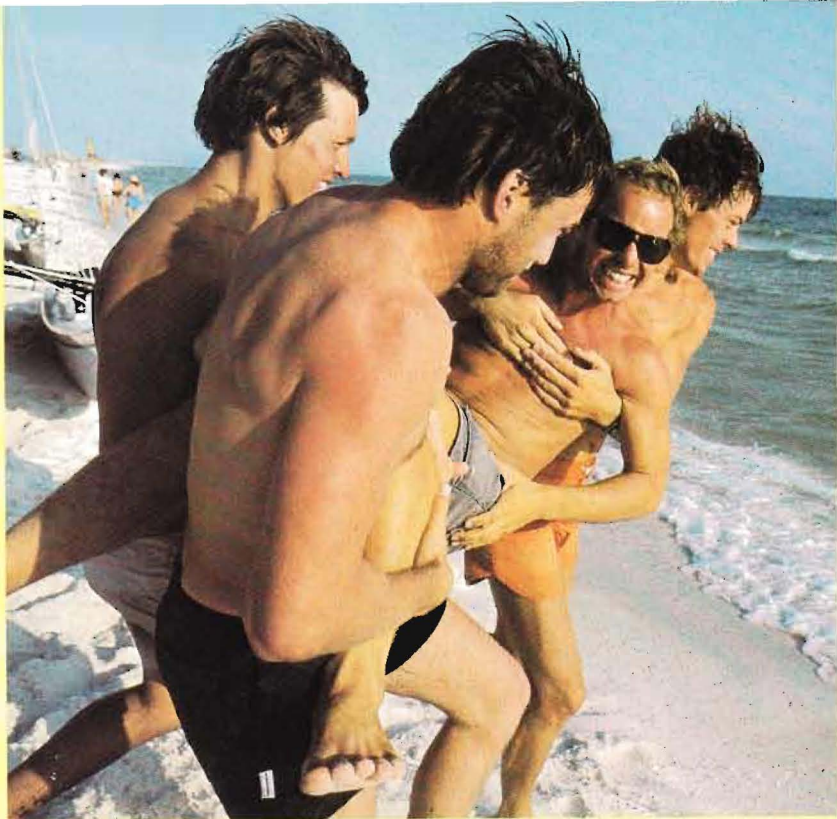
With blue skies, clear, green water and white sand, it could have been Aruba. It was Ft. Walton Beach, Florida and the world championship.



Photographs by Patrick McDowell



Ian Bashford, Brett Dryland and Jeff Alter show Tony Lewis what they think of the job of Beach Captain.

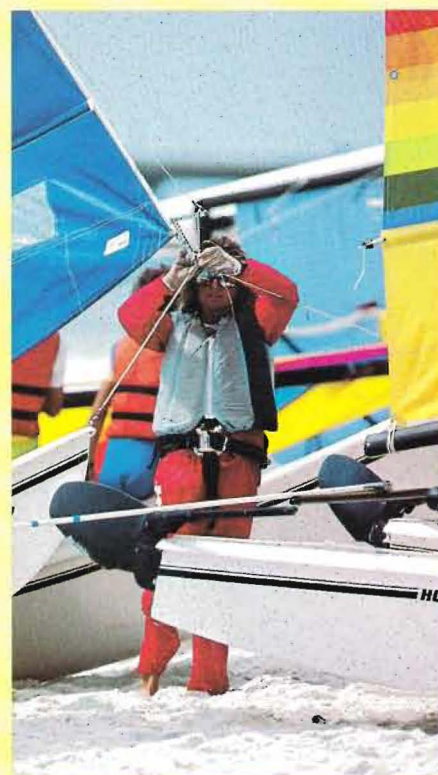


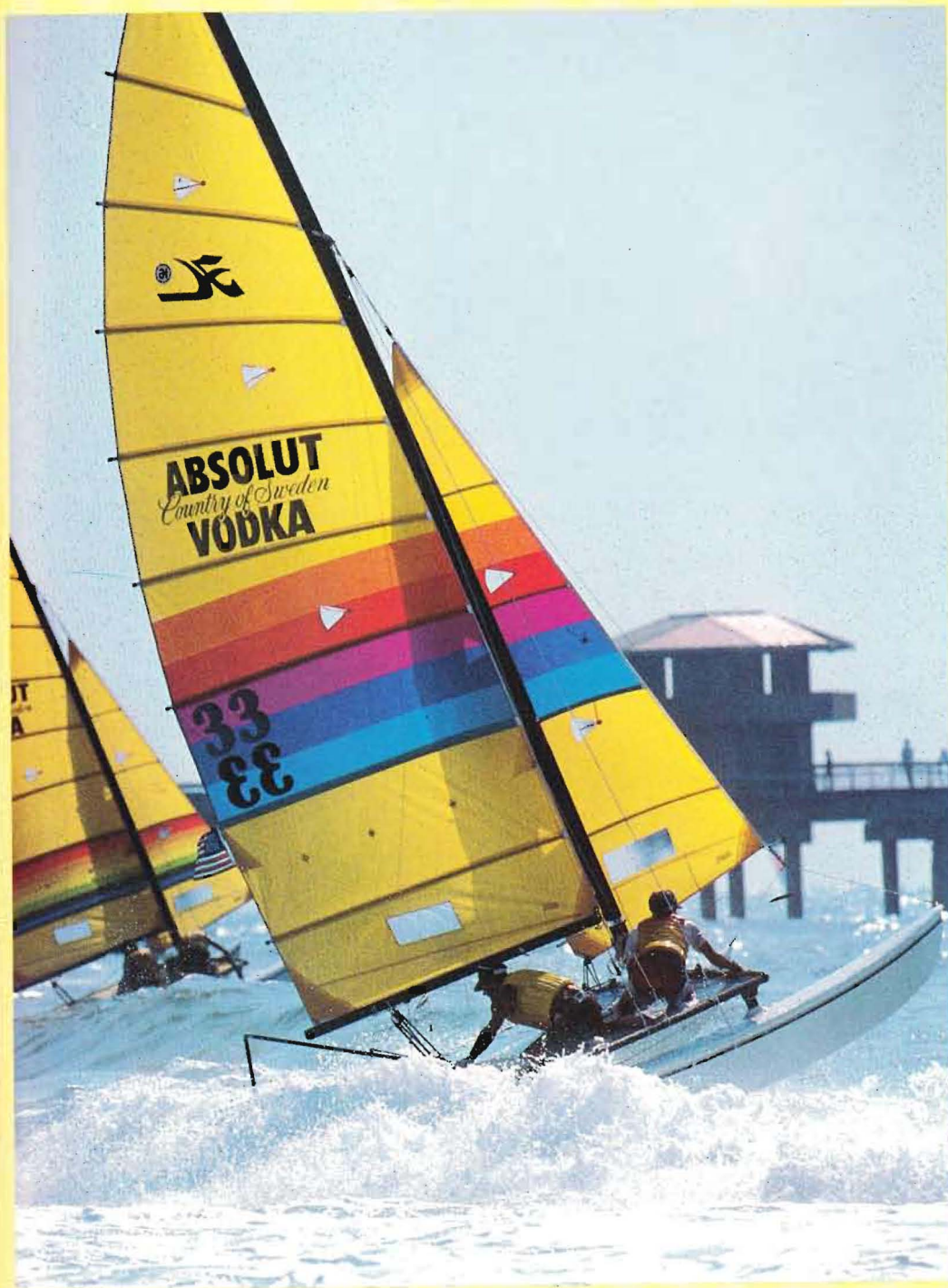
Garry Metcalf (left) and brother Chris (right) break open the bubbly after winning. Concentration like that shown in the photo above was the secret.

HOBIE
10
*world
championship*



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When it appeared that the lack of wind would prevent racing on the final day, the toys were brought out and the Hobie olympics were continued with a round the buoy innertube race. Other events included water walking and a charity dunking booth.

