

# NEW YORKER WINS GRAND BAHAMA BOAT RACE

Unheralded Jerry Jacoby of Old Westbury, New York, won the first annual Michelob-Light/Grand Bahama 200 powerboat race. He was driving a 37-foot deep-vee cigarette, "Ajac Hawk", with a pair of 675 hp Hawk Power engines.

Jacoby finished the 203-mile course in 2 hours and 26 minutes, averaging just over 66 mph.

"The flats were just that — flat," said Jacoby dockside at the Lucayan Harbour Inn and Marina after the race. "This in a way caused me to save my engines. With my deep-vee hull it made me slow down. There was a slight chop on the way to Great Isaac and, of course, our boat runs

better in rough water so we just gunned her all the way."

Jacoby and his crew — Keith Hazell, throttle, and Bart Quantin, navigator — made their move about one fourth of the way to Great Isaac Light, the final check point.

"We were never more than 40 to 50 yards behind the leader (Charlie McCarthy in "Rums of Puerto Rico") from the time we cleared the Grand Lucayan Waterway. We knew we had them when they began to throw out black smoke from an engine. We simply pressed the issue and forced them into deeper trouble," Jacoby explained.

Despite engine problems Mc-

Carthy, from Warwick, Rhode Island, was second across the finish line, only seconds behind Jacoby. He was driving a 38-foot Coyote powered by Mercruisers with a total output of 1250 hp.

Third across the line was William Elswick of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., winner of the May 10 Bacardi Trophy Race. Elswick in "Long Shot", a 39-foot cigarette, clocked 2 hrs. 28.5 mins. in the Grand Bahama race.

Joey Ippolito of Hallandale, Fla., powered his 38-foot scarab (Kevlar) "Michelob-Light" to fourth place in a time of 2 hrs. 31 mins.

Rounding out the top five finishers in the open class was



**JERRY JACOBY** of Old Westbury, New York (left) and his throttle **Keith Hazell** flash winning smiles after pushing their 37-foot Cigarette "Ajac Hawk", to victory in the First Annual Michelob-Light Grant Bahama 200. The win was Jacoby's first on the circuit and elevated him among the leaders in the national high points standings on the U.S. offshore racing circuit. "Ajac Hawk," powered by twin 675 hp Hawk Power engines, covered the 203 mile course in 2 hrs. 26 mins. Second boat to cross the finish line in the June 4 race was "Rums of Puerto Rico" driven by Charlie McCarthy of Warwick, Rhode Island. (Bahamas News Bureau photo by Edward Ellis)



"Incentive", the 38-foot Bertram owned and driven by Vincent Fasano of Fort Lauderdale. His time was 2 hrs. 37 mins.

First production boat to finish was Richard Carolson in "American Spirit," a 27-foot magnum with twin 550 hp Mercruisers. His time was one hour 38 mins. for the 113-mile course for production boats.

Carolson was followed 3 minutes later by "Bush", Tim Sheehan's 30-foot Sutphen-design craft which generates 1012 hp from her chevrolet engines.

Paula Akin of Huntington Beach, California raced "Smokin", a 30-foot Velocity with twin 350 hp Mercruisers to third, only 30 seconds behind Carolson.

Bob Ulrich, race chairman, said the only disappointment was the weather just prior to the Mid-Summer race.

"About 20 of the smaller class boats were forced to cancel the trip from the US to Grand Bahama because of high seas in the Gulf Stream. This cut the fleet down to 34 boats."

The course through waters surrounding Grand Bahama Island was designed to give both deep-vee racers and power catamarans even chances at winning.

"It was a true challenge they admitted after the race," said Ulrich describing the course he helped design.

"Navigation played a very important part. In order to win they had to handle themselves well in both open water and on the shallow flats."

The race, sanctioned by the American Powerboat Association (APBA) and the Bahamas Powerboat Association (BPBA) was sponsored by the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, the Grand Bahama Promotion Board, Michelob-Light Beer and the Lucayan Harbour Inn and Marina. The purse totalled \$35,000 with \$12,500 going to the winner.

The race is listed as a world championship event by the Union of International Motorboating.