

# War canoe crew honors Robin: Balmy Beach paddlers had extra reason for winning

Adams, Ralph

The Globe and Mail (1936-); Jul 24, 1972; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail

pg. S6



—Globe and Mail, John Wood

Lake Ontario was still dead calm for the bantam four-man canoe race at the Balmy Beach Club Regatta, the last club races of the season.



The host Balmy Beach crew works hard to maintain its narrow lead over the Rouge River Canoe Club team in the bantam war canoe race.

## War canoe crew honors Robin

# Balmy Beach paddlers had extra reason for winning

By RALPH ADAMS

George McConnachie's Balmy Beach war-canoe paddlers were five lengths faster than ever before, but they gave the senior race at their home regatta the big try Saturday and won it for Robin Wright.

Robin was one of two Beach paddlers who died of injuries after being struck by a Go train during the West Rouge Club's regatta the previous Sunday.

His mother, Sylvia and father Ron donated a trophy for the Southern Ontario division's seniors war-canoe race winners at the Beach regatta and McConnachie's boys came home first.

In the winning crew was

Robin's brother Ron. Mr. and Mrs. Wright presented the trophy, which will be contested annually, along with individual trophies to members of the crew.

The war-canoe victory was a highlight of the regatta. It attracted a crowd of several thousands, who lined the shore from the clubhouse at the foot of Beech Avenue to a starting line at Leuty Avenue.

The host paddlers made their best aggregate showing of the season, scoring 163 points in second place behind Mississauga's 176. West Rouge was third with 122, Mohawk fourth with 121 and the fledgling Peterborough club took two points.

Lake Ontario was dead calm for 25 races of the 33-event card, but then a strong west wind whipped up significant waves. Referees Gord White and Sandy Richmond decreed that the water was too rough for racing, but, after a half-hour delay in the program, the clubs agreed to race.

Gord More and Ken Butler then became referees but, with 11 crews in the juvenile C-4 event, the boats were on the starting line 20 minutes before getting away. It had been agreed to cut the racing distances by half.

The open war canoe 500-meter sprint was won by Mohawk's crew, steered by Dean Oldershaw after another Mohawk crew had won the juvenile C-4. With the southwest wind making the water progressively rougher, White and Richmond were partially vindicated when the women's, and men's K-4 events were cancelled. Winners of these two races in next Saturday's Canadian Canoe Association division trials at Long Pond, Centre Island, will be deemed Balmy Beach regatta race winners as well.

Jim Farintosh was a C-boat junior double winner for the Beach. When Jock Stewart was disqualified, Farintosh made up for his clubmate's indiscretion at the starting line and finished first. This pair then combined to win the C-2 event.

Balmy Beach's shoo-in junior C-4 was a shoo-out this day. The crew finished a well-beaten second to Mohawks Jeremy Hayes, Brian Bliss, Todd Allison and Gery Hines.

Before the winds came, Bob Abbott's West Rouge junior war canoe won an impressive, well disciplined race, with Bob Boaz's Mississaugas second.

The Beach regatta concluded club racing for the Southern Ontario division. Next Saturday the chips will be down at Long Pond, with the first three finishers in each event qualifying for the

Canadian championships in Winnipeg in August.

### U.S. rowers favored

MUNICH, Germany (UPI) — The U.S. eight emerged a hot favorite for the Olympic Games from the fourth international German Rowing championships by scoring an impressive one-length victory over West Germany yesterday.

The crew of coach Harry Parker, formed only two

weeks ago at Hannover, N.H., led from start to finish and was timed in 5:50.71 for the 2,000 meters (1¼ miles) distance.

West Germany, defending Olympic champions finished second in 5:54.48.

Czechoslovakia finished third, while European champion New Zealand was fourth, ahead of Italy and France. Australia, the 1968 silver medalist failed to make the final.