

Mississauga swamps opposition at West Rouge regatta

West Rouge bantams salvage war canoe to upset rivals

By RALPH ADAMS

Arnie Bredovskis proved Saturday there is no summer as wonderful as the one when a racing canoe paddler wins his first trophy.

To this 11-year-old West Rouge Club bantam war canoe beginner, the supreme moment came when he was awarded his trophy, along with 14 other crew members, for winning their specialty.

No matter that Mississauga won the Western Ontario division regatta at West Rouge with a smashing 249 point total. The big thing to freckle-faced Arnie was that his crew had finished first midway through the 33-event program.

Sweet was the thrill of victory, for the West Rouge youngsters had administered the first defeat of the season to the Mississauga boatload.

For the rest of the afternoon the trophy never left Arnie's hand. He was eating hot dogs, drinking pop and watching the rest of the program but the trophy always was in his grasp.

When bedtime came, the trophy went on the marlét with distinguished company. His father Atis had been an outstanding crew paddler for many seasons with the defunct Island Aquatic Club when the organization was high on the Canadian Canoe Association championship list.

Saturday was a great day for Atis, too. He is commodore of the West Rouge Club, has never lost interest in the paddling and has nursed his club along until it has become a division power. The hosts finished the regatta with a third-place 79 points and to have his son making a win-

ning contribution made the day perfect for Atis.

Mohawks of Burlington were second with 184, Balmy Beach fourth with 55, Ajax fifth with 36 and Sudbury last with 21.

The Sudbury total might look small, but coach Don Derochie had his problems before his 18-paddler contingent reached West Rouge. First, a trailer to carry the boats to Toronto had to be unearthed. Then a driver with a car sufficiently efficient to haul the load had to be lined up. Then club supporters with cars had to be found to transport the paddlers.

Out of all this effort came a distinguished first-place finish by a kayak four that branded Bob Quinlan, Leon Potowich, Paul Vasseur and Tim Quinlan with Canadian championship class.

Mississauga paddlers did not like a beating they took on Lake Ontario at the Mohawk regatta. The river crowd from Port Credit corrected this situation by leaving their river water for a week and practicing on the lake. The results were rewarding and set them up for another first-place assault at Balmy Beach next Saturday.

When the Oldershaw paddlers, Dean, Reid and Scott moved to Quebec for a summer of racing with that city's club, they seemed to have knocked a hole in Mississauga's point production. Departure of Scott Lee and John Wood for a summer of training in Europe seemingly weakened the club further. But Jim Reardon has become the division's kayak stalwart. He won the senior kayak singles, joined Keith Major to win the kayak junior tandem and this pair joined Art Figg and Tom Boaz to win the open kayak four.

Mississauga regained control in the war canoes, taking the women's event, the senior men's race and the juvenile race. That left the West Rouge bantams and Mohawk men's open as the other big-boat victors.