



ON THE RACING CIRCUIT

PACE III MAKES THE ENSENADA SCENE

A newly launched and expertly sailed Columbia 50 named Pace III, skippered by Bill Gearhart of the Off-shore Cruising Club, won the west coast's 130-mile "tequila derby" May 9 against a staggering—and record—fleet of 517 yachts. The 19th annual Newport-to-

Photo by Heckner



Sliding downwind at the end of the Newport-Ensenada Race is overall winner Pace III, Bill Gearhart's Columbia 50. Below: Victor Gearhart (1) receives President of Mexico Trophy from Senor Ignacio A. Pesqueira, Mexican Consul.



Ensenada, Mexico bout which started May 7 was the sloop's maiden race.

Under Gearhart's command, she beat briskly almost all the way down the California coast into 6- to 15-knot southeasterlies and finished the last eight miles under spinnaker in 20.434 hours corrected to win the President of Mexico Trophy for overall victory, and Class B in the Ocean Racing Division. The Bill Tripp-designed fiberglass sloop is produced as a

stock hull by the Columbia Yacht Corp. of Costa Mesa, California.

Pace III's overall tally bettered by bare seconds the time of fleet runnerup Andante, sailed by Nick Frazee of the San Diego Yacht Club, who also won Class C in the OR group and the Mexican Secretary of State Trophy.

First to finish was the 44-foot catamaran Patty Cat II skippered by John Pursell of Balboa Y.C. She crossed the Ensenada line at 11:30 AM May 8. Two other cats, Ken Murphy's 46-footer Aikane of the California Y.C. and Buddy Ebsen's Allez Cat from Balboa Y.C. followed in that order.

First mono-hulled finisher was Don Haskell's beautiful 67-foot sloop Chubasco of the Newport Harbor Y.C. She lead all but the first three big cats at the finish, but didn't save her time on Karama, Dick Wheeler's 10-Meter from the San Diego Y.C. Karama won Class A in the Ocean Racing Division and thus the Mexican Secretary of Marina prize. Chubasco followed for second in A on corrected time.

This year's race tried navigators' tempers with persistent southeasterlies. By nightfall the first day, most were short-tacking along the shore, with just a few heading outside Point Loma and the Coronados Islands. The usual prevailing westerly avoided racers, who beat almost all the way to Ensenada.

The vast fleet was split into four groups. Other winners were, in the Ocean Racing Division: Ed Sundberg's Sundowner of the L.A.Y.C. in Class D, and J. H. Holiday's Aquarius of the Long Beach Y.C. in Class E, and for which she also won the Governor of California Trophy.

Winners in the Pacific Handicap Racing Fleet: B. A. Krebs in Freedom won B and overall, and thus the President of U.S. Trophy; Ballerina, a PCC skippered by F. L. Drader of the Hollywood Y.C. won Class A and the U.S. Secretary of State Trophy; George Banteli's Minita of the Little Ships Fleet in Long Beach won Class C; Golden Hind owned by Byron Chamberlain of the Seal Beach Y.C. took D and the Secretary of Navy Trophy; and Edwin Soule's 27-foot sloop Princess of Cabrillo Beach Y.C. won E and the Governor of Baja California prize.

Ron Hazelhurst's Rampage of Santa Barbara Y.C. won in the Midget Ocean Racing fleet and received the U.S. Coast Guard perpetual Trophy. And Milan Collich's Makai of the California Y.C. won in the Multi-Hulled Division.

MANHASSET BAY SHARES IOD BOOTY WITH BERMUDA

A superior collective command of their 33-foot sloops on Bermudian waters earned five IOD skippers from L.I. Sound's Manhasset Bay Y.C. the Cow Bay-Great Sound Bowl for the fourth successive year. They reclaimed the prize—a Manhasset Bay offering—by beating the host Bermuda group four straight in this best four-of-seven series sailed May 2-4 during Bermuda's annual International Yachting Week. Over 50 one-design class boats from the U.S. Britain, Canada