

By Scott Held
The News-Herald

Luck?
We think not.

Jose Mendana's boat wore The News-Herald's sponsorship skin throughout last weekend's National City Roar on the River — all the way to the winner's stand.

The Miami native won two of the three heats he competed in to easily capture a second straight American Power Boat Association SST 45 class world championship Sunday afternoon on the Detroit River.

Mendana, last season's champion, did not race in Saturday's opening heat but came back to win the second run. After taking third in the third race, he capped his weekend by capturing Sunday's final heat.

His 1,025 points were more than enough to top Stoney Point, Ontario's Butch Ott, who was the class runner-up with 753.

Mark Jacobs of Clifton, Ill., followed Mendana's lead, winning two of four heats to sew up the SST 120 title.

After a lackluster opening heat, Jacobs won the second race, was fourth in the third run and closed the weekend with a win in the final heat to top runner-up Don Lick by 68 points.

Lick, of Maple Grove, Minn., won the third heat and was second in the final run.

Shaun Torrente, last season's 120 champion, did not compete in this summer's races.

Rain was forecast both days of the annual event but what rainfall did come hardly interrupted the racing schedule.

"Our numbers were down a little bit Saturday afternoon because of the rain," race director Paul Jocks said, "but once it cleared up, a lot of people came back for the country music concert and fireworks."

There was a slight drizzle early Sunday, but it gave way to sunny skies before the day's racing card began.

Only a handful of accidents occurred during the championship heats and just one required medical attention.

Gary Barber of Bay City destroyed his SST 45 boat after a crash Saturday afternoon and was treated for facial lacerations and some chipped teeth, but was back at the course to watch Sunday's final heats.

"He ordered a new boat Monday and said he couldn't wait to get it," Jocks said.

Final results from Sunday's National City Roar on the River in Trenton.

SST 45 championship

1. Jose Mendana, Miami, 1,025 points; 2. Butch Ott, Stoney Point, Ont., 753; 3. Dan Orchard, Startford, Ont., 652; 4. Jason Nelson, Atlanta, 596; 5. Tiffany McKinley, Texas City, Texas, 521; 6. Chris Hagerl, Brutus, 466; 7. Mark Schmerbauch, Greenfield, Wis., 417; 8. Bud Nollman, Osage Beach, Mo.; 338; 9. Ruben Ascencio, Bedford, Texas; 10. Amanda Hagerl, Brutus, 275; 11. Milo Degugas, Keyport, N.J., 237; 12. Chris Wensler, Imperial, Mo., 146; 13, 13. Steve Merleau, Fennville, 121; 14. Mike Beegle, Clarkston, 93; 15. Gary Barber, Bay City, 40l 16. Rich Welch, Grosse Pointe Woods, 32; 17. David Newton, Westerly, R.I., 30.

SST 120 championship

1. Mark Jacobs, Clifton, Ill., 1,064; 2. Don Lick, Maple Grove, Minn., 996; 3. Jimmie Merleau, Fennville, 877; 4. Jay Fox, Bay City, 790; 5. Kris Shepard, Antioch, Ill., 759; 6. Paul Pittman, New Albany, Ind., 691; 7. Jeff Shepherd, Woodland, Tenn., 340; 8. Mark Johnson, Jeffrey, N.H., 230; 9. Bobby Chaffin, Nashville, 173; 10. Adam Schlater, Zanesville, Ohio, 30.

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