

went to Kench.

Unfortunately for Hearn, however, his luck at the nationals went from bad to worse. In 15SS Hydro, he also won the first heat and needed only to hold position in the second heat to take the title. But it wasn't to be, for on the last turn of the last lap while dicing with another driver for third place, he hit a buoy, which was an automatic disqualification, and adding insult to injury was pitched out of the boat.

That left the title to Steve Warnock of Pewaukee, Wis., who earned it with a pair of third place finishes. Second went to Hearn and third went to Doug Schaub, of West Bend, Wis., who won the final heat but failed to start for the first go-round.

Hearn's sister Beth had better luck at this year's nationals, taking both the J Stock Runabout and J Stock Hydro titles



and becoming one of the three drivers to take two titles home. She won the runabout title with back-to-back victories but got a helping hand from lady luck in JSH when first heat winner Garrett Armstrong, also the defending champion, got tangled up with another driver during the milling period and was tossed from the boat when they collided, putting him out of the second heat run.

Second place in the JSH class went to Brian Jenkins, while Armstrong was third. In the runabout class, it was Jason Forcier second on a pair of seconds and Jerry Brewster third with a fifth and third place finish.

Noted a proud father, Steve Hearn, "I am proud of all the kids. I think that just participating and setting goals is great—but the winning is a bonus.

"And Beth is not just a steerer—she's a

real driver. She understands boat set-up and relates well to us what is happening with the boat on the race course.

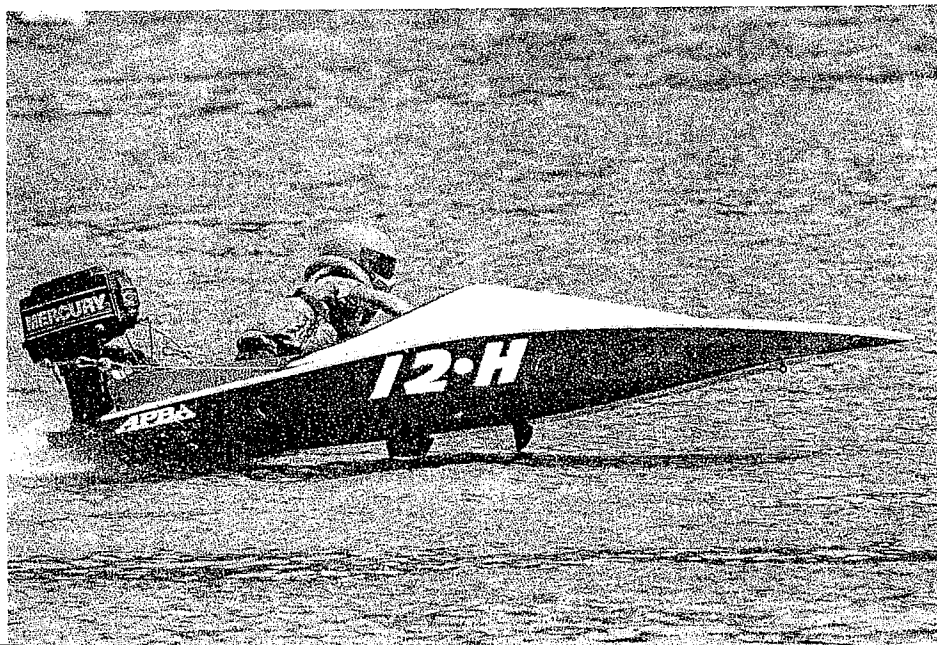
"As for Richard—that's a tough way to go—but I think that he probably learned more from losing those two nationals than if he won them both—and I am sure that he will be back next year even more determined—that's one thing that racing can teach," he said.

But talk about competing in the



(Top): With a win in the first heat and a third place finish in heat two, Jon Stone (27-N) of Rochester, N.Y., took the national championship in DSH. Photo: Rusty Rae

(Center): Winning his first national championship since 1976, Bunky Bowman outdid the measure of the field in two classes and went home with



(Top): One of the three drivers to take dual titles, Beth Hearn became the 1987 national victor in both J Stock Hydro and Runabout. Photo: Rusty Rae

