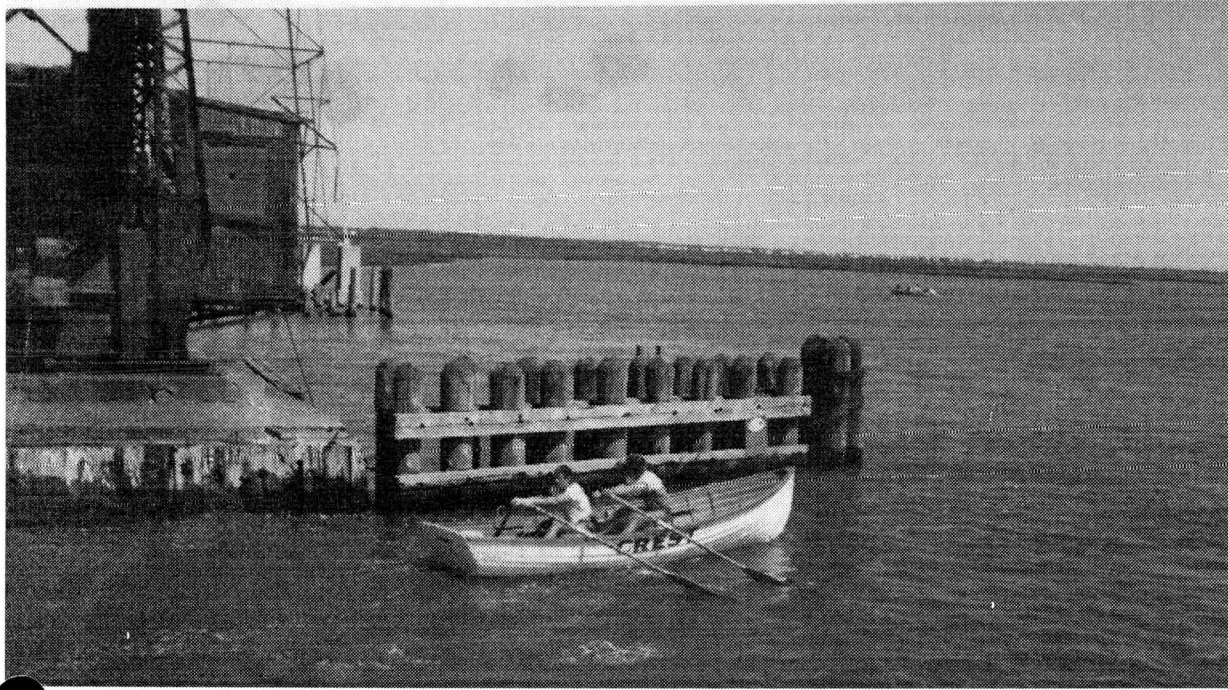
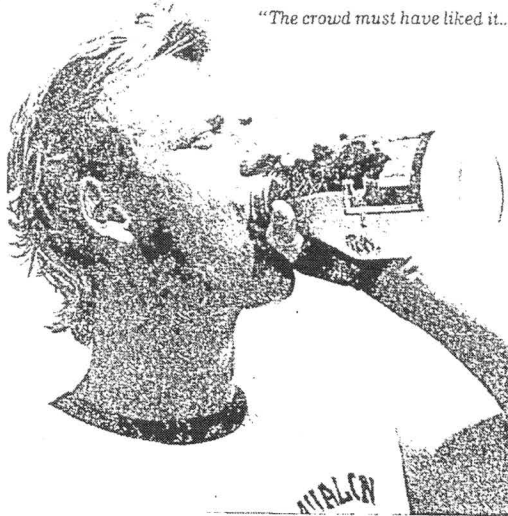


WCBF
Maxi Bilkins & Kyriakis ("Greek") Everenoglou
August 17, 1981
Around The Island Row
14th Place





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—Dan O'Malley.



"With 100 yards to go, O'Malley told me to fire the retro-rockets... I said absolutely. He said fire the after burners... I said absolutely."
—Pete Soderman.

Staff photos by Tom Kinnemund

Last Push, Lucky Sandbar Help Avalon Win Island Row

By CINDY NEVITT
Press Sports Writer

NORTH WILDWOOD — There's a grin before the start. There's even more when it's over.

Last year's bruises return in the mind: water blisters substitute for palms, bloody stumps symbolize fingers. Rears get rubbed raw despite three pairs of pants and padding.

But still they go out there. Because this year, they have a strategy. They've bought more expensive gloves. They've rigged the water jugs on crutches to avoid costly stopping and starting during feeding time. They've rowed together before. They've not rowed together before. They have a strategy.

None of their strategies worked. It was the sixth annual Around-the-Island Row Monday — anywhere from 19 to 23-miles of continuous, monotonous rowing — and none of their strategies worked. The blisters gleefully erupted under gloves, tape and Vaseline. The blood flowed out of cut digits; the "raspberries" rose on rear ends.

And fate took care of what Dan O'Malley and Pete Soderman didn't, as the Avalon pair nipped Brigantine's Rick Dove and Mark Spencer with 50 yards to go and won the \$1,000 first-place prize Monday.

"With 100 yards to go, O'Malley told me to fire the retro-rockets," bowman Soderman said. And what did Soderman say? "I said absolutely."

And then what stern O'Malley say? "He said fire the after burners." And what did Soderman say? "I said absolutely."

Then he shouted, "We blew their dor-i-ors in!" He leaned close, "Spell that just like it sounds," he whispered.

So much for O'Malley and Soderman. As for fate...

The expensive gloves were stolen. The water jugs so ingeniously rigged on crutches, which are lashed upright to the gunwales, leaked sugar-happy Coke all over the floor. The familiar rowing partners acted like they'd never laid eyes on each other before the

8:30 a.m. start at 15th Street and the Beach. The unacquainted rowing partners got lost.

And host North Wildwood embarrassed itself.

Of the eight boats North Wildwood entered in the 33-crew field, five finished among the last 10. One of those boats got lost and rowed into West Wildwood, later to be discovered meandering aimlessly among the marshes by the captain of one of the press boats.

Those whose strategy was to finish the race with more than a trophy to show for the black and blue marks kept both oars dipped in the water. Bradley Beach of North Jersey kept both oars dipped in the water, both bodies dipping in their seats.

Stern Jeff Probert and bowman Ray Cooper leaned forward to submerge the oars, then leaned backwards in their seats to pull the oars. For fifth place, \$50 and three hours, 17 minutes and 24 seconds, they saw nothing but the boat floor and the blue sky as they did sit-up after sit-up after sit-up.

"It's a flat-bottomed boat," Cooper explained, "designed by Charles Hankins out of Lavelette. They use this kind of boat in competition in Bradley Beach. We tried to adjust to their kind of strokes here, but you can't teach an old dog new tricks."

But you can teach a stomach new tricks? Asked if that particular style of rowing didn't bother his stomach, Cooper balled up his fist and smashed Probert's midsection didn't flinch.

"Answer your question?," Cooper queried.

Yes. But the most important question of the day had been answered seven minutes and 12 seconds earlier, when Avalon had taken advantage of a Brigantine mistake and won the race in 3:10:12.

O'Malley elaborated on the finish, where Brigantine, which had been leading since overtaking Sea Isle City in the Cape May Inlet at 10 a.m., almost rowed up on a sandbar at 8th Street and lost ground recovering.

"The crowd must have liked it," O'Malley said. "We liked it."

The win was O'Malley's third consecutive here. The previous two years he won the event with partner Dave Kerr. However, Soderman has manned his oars respectably in the two weeks he's rowed with O'Malley. They took fourth last Thursday in the South Jersey Lifeguard Championships.

Second and \$500 went to Dove and Spencer, a pair who started rowing

together this year and have since won the Brigantine and Longport Invationals.

"The sandbar hurt us there," stern Dove admitted, slumped on a bench in the shower room with a drink in his hand. "With three miles to go, we ran out of fluid. The body just couldn't go any more; the muscles weren't responding."

"Avalon just kept coming and coming," he continued. "We had them by

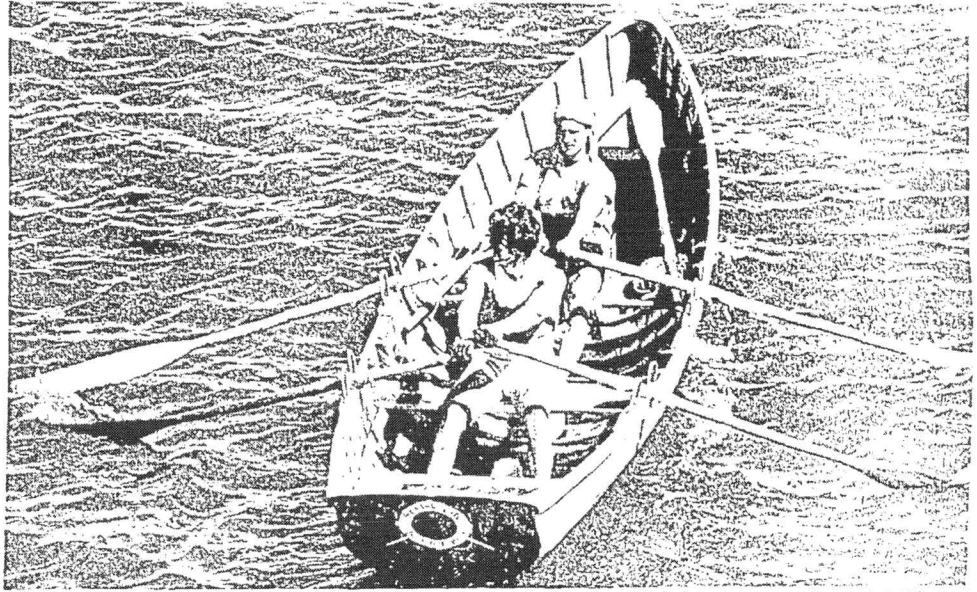
200 yards at one point. They were just really tough. They're exceptional athletes. We went full out for the last two miles, holding nothing back. They didn't give up — not that we did — but you've got to give them credit."

Sea Isle City's crew of stern Miles Lederer and bowman Doug Aitken had never rowed competitively before. They lost their ocean lead in the inlet and dropped to fourth after the midway point. Before the turn back

into the ocean, they recovered third and held on for the \$300 prize.

"We're flat water rowers," Lederer explained. "The inlet, the wind, blew it for us. We practice on a river — on flat water we move pretty good. We figured we'd just stay ahead, then Brigantine passed. So we figured we'd just stay with them until the back bay when the water got flatter."

"It never got flatter." Strategy.



VERY SHEIK — Sea Isle City crew Doug Aitken, rear, and Miles Lederer.

Staff photo by Tom Kinnemund

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Steff photos by Tom Kinnemund

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PHOTO BY TOM KINNEMUND FOR THE PRESS

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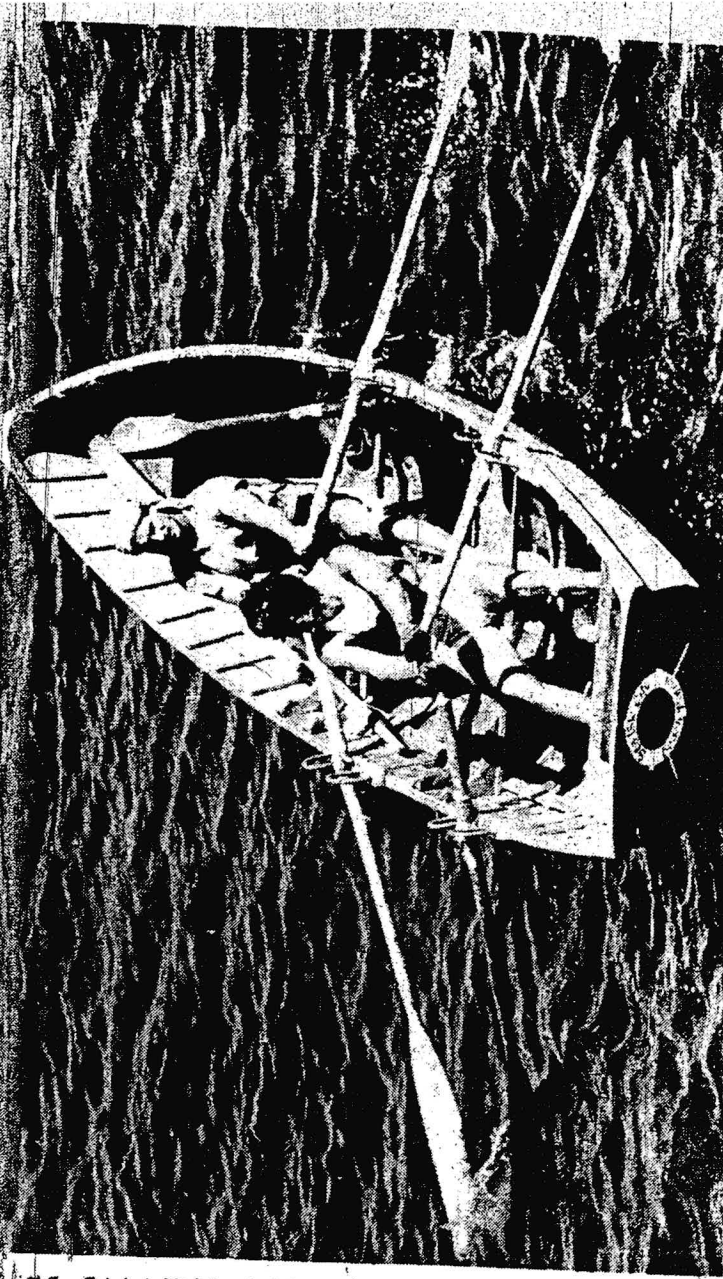
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VERY SWEET — Sea Isle City crew Doug Aitken, rear, and Miles Lederer.

Staff photo by Tom Kinnermand

Home stretch decides 'Around Island Row'



PERSISTANCE finally paid off for the Avalon crew of Dan O'Malley and Pete Soderman (below). For three-plus miles, the Avalon Beach Patrol duo battled Brigantine, Doug Dove and Mark Spenser for first place in Monday's annual Around the Island Row (left). ahead of second place Brigantine.

Finally, in the 23-mile course's final yards, Avalon broke through and stroked ahead to the victory. O'Malley, who won the race last year with Dave Kerr, and Soderman completed the grueling course in 3:10:12, just 39 seconds ahead of second place Brigantine.

By MARK STONE
Sports Editor
NORTH WILDWOOD — Captain Lou Cirelli of the North Wildwood Beach Patrol, organizer of the "Around the Island" Row held Monday, described this year's race as something he hadn't seen in a long time.

Usually by the race's home stretch, the field is a well-mixed group of boats, with the victor determined long before the finish line. This year, however, two boats were dead even going into the final 500 yards of the 23-mile course. Brigantine, Mark Spenser and Rick Dove, and Avalon, Dan O'Malley and Pete Soderman.

For the later portion of the race, the battle for first place, and the \$1,000 prize, was clearly between only two crews: Avalon and Brigantine, with Avalon playing catch-up.

"We broke into second place three-four miles after the inlet. Coming into the three miles after the inlet," described O'Malley on his catchup battle against Brigantine, which had pulled into the lead shortly after the inlet.

"We knew we had to make up the distance at the trestle (West Wildwood Trestle)," continued O'Malley, "and I saw Dave (Kerr) there and that really inspired me. Last year, O'Malley and the Island Row victory, has been unable to compete.

Little by little, O'Malley and Soderman crept up on Dove and Spenser, but were still about five boat-lengths behind when a sandbar, a treacherous obstacle, proved to be the most vital in the race. Those few precious moments lost three-hour race hurt us," admitted Lou Cirelli.

"The body just couldn't go anymore. I was forcing myself just to move." With about three miles to go, the Brigantine boat has lost all its

fluids aboard, draining both Love and Spenser. When they had to break their stroke to avoid the sandbar, lost all its fluids aboard, draining both Love and Spenser. When they had to break their stroke to avoid the sandbar, lost all its fluids aboard, draining both Love and Spenser.

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MT Rec,

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CAPE MAY — A tight defense on the left side of the infield and active lumber carried the middle of the townships to victory in the first round of the Sugar Hunt for hits. Ouram with her rifle and accurate throws to first and Williams with her quick glove, snatching many a 'sure' single around the bag for a 'sure' out.

Williams' defense was never so vital as it was in the fourth inning of the third and decisive game.

Having already "waited" for two runs to close the gap to 3-2, the Sugar Bears had bases loaded with one out. On a line drive down the left-field line, Williams speared the drive for the third base out and stepped into double play that ended the rally and keyed the 7-4 game three victories.

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