

Benner: Saturday's South Eastern Canoe race best in 10-year history

After all was said and done, Saturday's South Eastern Intercollegiate Canoe Race was the most successful race in the history of the 10-year event.

"It really was the best one we've ever had," said Race Director Bob Benner of Western Piedmont Community College. "We had more people than any other race we've had. And, the competition was really close in almost every event."

Held at the Bridgewater Power Plant on the Catawba River below Lake James, the race attracted 11 colleges and universities and 164 participants. The race was actually 19 separate races.

The University of the South captured the team championship by accumulating 466 points. South's nearest competition came from Western Carolina University with 378 points. Third place went to Georgia State University with 349 points.

The remaining eight finishers in order were: University of North Carolina (184), Appalachian State (149), UNC-Charlotte (54), Western Piedmont Community College (43), Radford College (17), Furman University (10), Germanna Community College (5), A-B Tech (4) and Tennessee Tech (4).

The only problem in the day-long event was a computing error which delayed the final results until Tuesday.

"We had some awfully good canoeists out there," said Benner. "We

had one girl — Carrie Ashton — who raced for the U.S. Olympic team in the 1972 Olympics."

In the Down River C-1 Intercollegiate class, Georgia State's Jim Hudson turned in a time of 22:01 to nip Western Carolina's Scott Overdorf by a half second for top honors. In the women's division, Leigh Williams of the University of the South took first with a 25.14, while Catherine Crowder of Georgia State was second at 26.36.

In the C-1 Open division (college affiliation not necessary), Steve Epps logged a 24.27 time to slip past Tom Dallinger who turned in a time of 24.48. Linda Wesemar won the women's event with a 24.13. Dawn Brenner was second with a 24.16.

In the C-2 Intercollegiate race, John Zubizaretta and Overdorf teamed for first place with a 20.28. Doug Cameron and Van Nall of the University of the South were second less than a second behind. The mixed class had Ashton and Steve Puckette of the University of the South winning top honors with a 20.43. Margie and John Zubizaretta of WCU were second. The women's division winners were Marriane Beardsley and Zubizaretta with a 21.35. Ashton and Ginny Lux were second.

In the C-2 Open classes, Danny Bennett and D. Webster logged a 21.44 for first while Dallinger and Venable Vermont finished second at 22.16. Dave and Dawn Benner won the mixed class with a 20.55, while Karen Berry and Allen Gordon took second.



Bob Benner receives plaque

...from Dennis Brockland Saturday night.

In the Slalom C-1 Intercollegiate race, Benner of UNC captured first by accumulating 298 points. Tim Kelly of Georgia State was second at 332. In the women's race, Jane Rose of Georgia State nipped Mary Barr of the University of the South 436-438. The mixed division saw Ashton and Puckette nip Zubizaretta and Zubizaretta 287-288.

In the Slalom C-1 Open classes, Epps bested Dallinger for first place 340-381 in the men's division. Benner defeated Berry 371-419 in the women's division, and Robert Harkness and Debbie Duddleston raced past Epps and Epps 336-371 in the mixed division.

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In the Slalom C-2 Intercollegiate class, Robert Harkness and Benner were nine point winners over Zubizaretta and Overdorf 290-299. The women's class saw Ashton and Williams edge Zubizaretta and Beardsley 334-350.

The Slalom C-2 Open classes had Dallinger and Vermont taking first with 349 points, while Roland Hame-rick and Steve Pearson won second with 468 points. Berry and Benner, both local racers, won the women's division with 336 points. Duddleston and A. Jacobs were second with 460 points.



Photo by Chuck Liddy

Dennis Brockland, Donna Reid

...were two of record 164 participants.