

## 38th Annual Tune-up Regatta Lake Lansing, Haslett, Michigan

A beautiful spring day in Michigan, with light to medium, extremely shifty wind conditions greeted the twelve boats making the pilgrimage to the annual Tune-up Regatta. I drove up from Pontiac Yacht Club and met my two sons who are attending Eastern Michigan University at the club. Just coming off of a broken wrist (the cast came off May 1) I was a little worried about sailing altogether let alone the first sail of the year.

My crew and I decided to start the first race at the leeward end of the starting line, but with the wind shifting a good 60 degree right at the start we ended up being over early and having to re-round the mark and going behind the fleet on port. As luck would have it we hit the right shore hard and picked up a lift to the weather mark rounding first and keeping that position throughout the race. It was a fight for second between Chris Jacobsen, Mike Moody and David Nickels with Chris fending off the other two at the finish. The second race started out as shifty as the first with our only good start of the regatta. We covered the fleet to the weather mark and kept the lead on downwind. Rounding the leeward mark we went to what I thought was the favored right shore but George Siegle and Chris Jacobsen tacked around the leeward mark into the middle of the lake caught one of those 60 degree shifts and they were gone. We managed to hang on to a third and fortunate at that. The third race was right before lunch and I did a bone head maneuver at the start, when I thought the wind shift that almost caused me to do an auto-tack was permanent, and I tacked right into a header stalling the boat and getting hit by Jennifer Armbruster. After licking my wounded ego, we executed a 720 and looked up the lake to find the leaders close to the weather mark. At this point I apologized to my sons and sailed up wind. We rounded next to last and proceeded to sail a solid downwind and second upwind. The wind kept dying and picking up from different parts of the lake. On the last downwind I saw a breeze building on the right shore and proceeded to tight reach to it. Once by the shore the wind velocity went from about 2 to 8 knots and we flew down to the leeward mark just inching out Pat Dolan. With out a doubt in my 36 years of racing, this was one of the best comebacks I have ever been involved in. Of course most of the credit goes to my sons who are an amazing team to sail with.

The fourth race was a back and forth dual between Chris Jacobsen, Jennifer Armbruster and our boat. All three boats had the lead for part of the race but Chris caught a lift rounding the last leeward mark and fended us off to finish just ahead with Jennifer Armbruster a close third. In the fifth and final race David Nickels shot out of the start like a rocket and never looked back. George Siegle and I battled for third as he got the better of me.

The hospitality of the Lansing Sailing club is first class. I would encourage everyone to put this regatta on your schedule for next year, because you will not find shiftier winds, five great races and better people in a one day regatta anywhere else.

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