

Escapade Seen Nearing Repeat In Yacht Race

By CLIFF CARPENTER

The queen of Great Lakes distance yacht racing appeared to be settled comfortably in her throne last night; opposition to her rule was losing strength hourly.

Which is to say that as the lake-encircling Rochester Race slogged through its second day, Escapade, the title defender, Wendell Anderson's mighty blue yawl from Detroit, was eating out a lead that looked safer by the hour. Meanwhile the world's longest fresh water race itself was settling down more securely in history books as a jinxed, ship-damaging, crippler of a race. The Heron, Harry Greb's schooner from the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, dropped out of the race at 7 a. m. yesterday, apparently hurt by the beating of 10-foot seas and winds that hit more than 50 miles in the gusts during the night.

Third to Fall Out

Heron was No. 3 to fall out, leaving seven yachts still plowing or drifting along.

First leg of the race, which began at 3 p. m. Saturday, was to the west end of the lake and around a buoy at Hamilton.

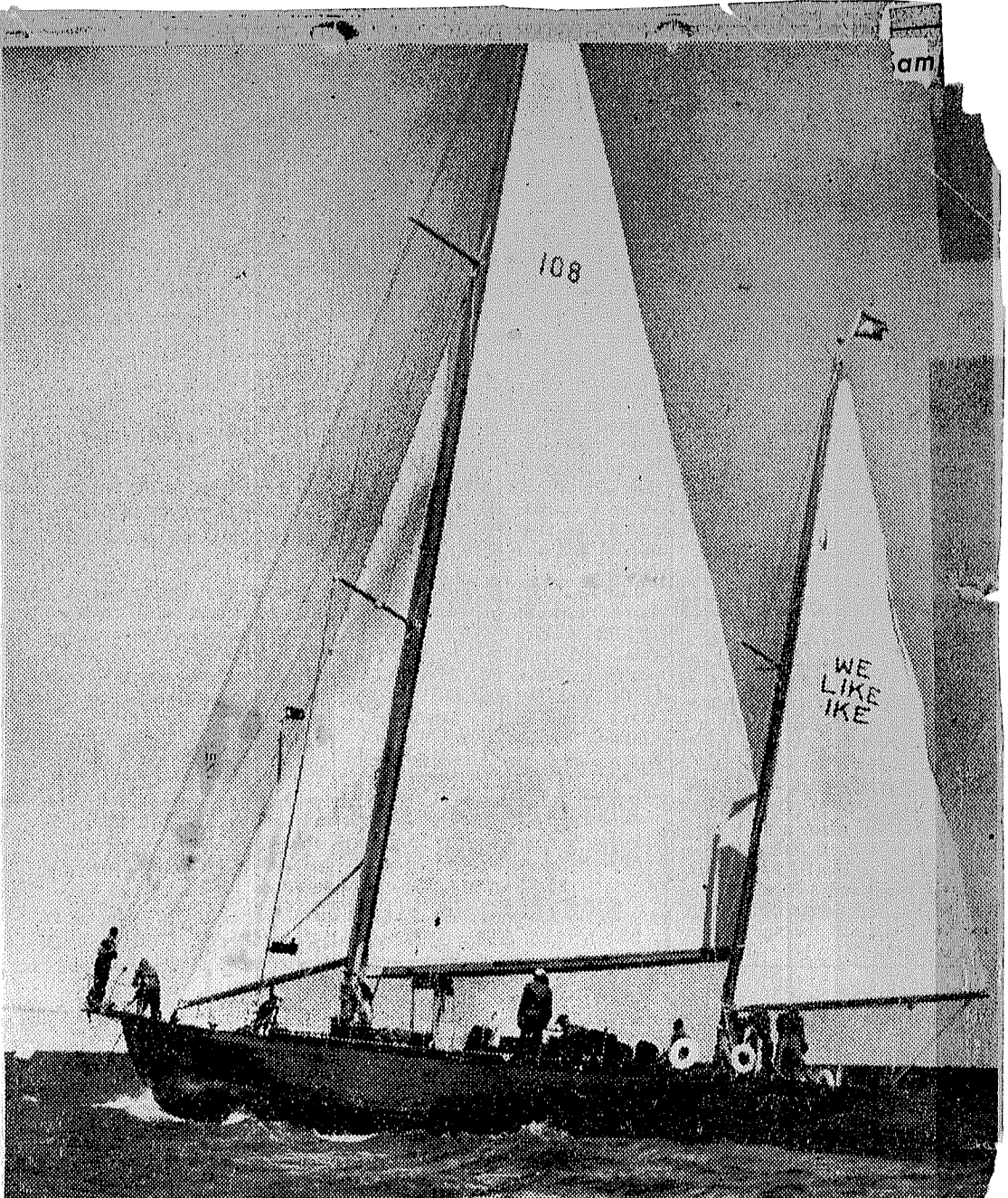
Watchers checked Escapade around the mark at 5:45 a. m. yesterday; next, Gil Pingree's 60-foot Michigan yawl, Red Head, at 8:20 a. m.; next, the host Rochester Yacht Club's best hope for regaining the cup, George Ford's yawl Venture 3rd, at 10:57 a. m.; next Chuck Harrison's 51-foot yawl from Olcott, Stormy Petrel, at 11:41 a. m., and then the race's smallest entry, Rochester yachtsman Arthur M. R. Hughes' 40-foot cutter Lady Linden at 4:28 p. m. Eric Moore's White Squall and Bob Bridges' Desire both from RYC, rounded at 8:13 and 8:45 p. m., respectively.

Escapade No Allowance

The race is a handicap and Escapade, as scratch boat, has no time allowance. But figuring the times at Hamilton against the handicaps, husky Eskie had saved her time with plenty to spare over her pursuers. For example, Escapade has to give away 42 minutes to Red Head and one hour and 41 minutes to Venture for the Hamilton distance, but actually was leading those two by more than 2½ and 5 hours respectively.

Thus the story of the race began to look like a carbon copy of last year's, with the big factor being the Detroit's ability to sock her way through seas that crippled or slowed smaller craft.

Weather on the lake last night, where the fleet was plodding from Hamilton toward Stony Island at the extreme eastern end, was first almost nonexistent, but then began kicking up out of the Southwest. There was a chance that the freakish winds could change the complexion of the race, for the shift favored the trailing boats. After rounding Stony Island, the surviving racers will take the third and final leg of the race back to Rochester. Granting the kind of weather that reigned last night, there was no chance of a finisher before sometime late today.



IKE'S AHEAD! Big Detroit yawl Escapade, now leading in Rochester Race, is pictured here just after start, flaunting the political

convictions of the crew on the mizzen. Big defending yacht seemed to like the weather as well as Ike, was well out ahead last night.