

Canada's Circe Takes George Cup In Deciding Race with RYC Stork As Skippers Stage Brilliant Duel

By CLIFF CARPENTER

A tan-colored ghost sailed out of the past to haunt Rochester Yacht Club yesterday and give Canada its first International George Cup title in 13 years.

The challenger, Circe, won the third and deciding race of the series by barely 18 seconds, after 18 miles of yacht dueling, brilliant and bitter enough to rival pure fiction.

As the Royal Canadian Yacht Club sloop hit the finish line those sparse seconds ahead of the onrushing Stork of RYC, some 25 spectator yachts crowded with hundreds of onlookers let loose a din of bells, whistles and sirens reminiscent of the bygone days of Canada's Cup racing. The din was duplicated later with the addition of cannon salutes when skipper Reg Dixon tillered the victorious racer, once a Rochester boat, into the RYC basin.

Storybook Flight

There was defeat and loss of the cup but no disgrace for 29-year-old Jerry Castle, the Rochester skipper, for it was a storybook fight, an error of performance in the opinion of the race-wise gallery in the floating grandstands.

The three 6-meter racing yachts—Circe, Stork, and Meteor from Youngstown, handled by Bob Mullett—sailed out onto the lake off the Port of Rochester to be greeted by leaden skies, a huge and sloppy ground swell, and a soggy breeze of no better than 3.4 miles an hour. Race Chief A. H. Bud Gorsline of RYC ordered two successive 15-minute postponements to wait for the wind to make up its mind; then ordered a triangular course, twice around, three miles to the leg.

Meteor went into the race sailing only for what glory she could salvage, having been knocked out of any chance for the cup by a cranky new mainsail and a breakdown in the first two races. So, as was expected, the RYC defender and the Canadian challenger, tied in points after taking a first and a second apiece in earlier races, paid attention only to each other.

Test of Tacking

The first leg was a test of tacking into the breeze, which held steady in direction but never pumped itself up to more than 10 miles an hour. Stork and Circe hit the starting line together, the former higher on the wind but the Canadian far enough to leeward to escape being blanketed.

As they slogged close-hauled into the big swells, it was apparent in only a few minutes that the Circe was inching out ahead, tacking more kindly to the rolling than Stork. Castle in Stork came about; Dixon in Circe flipped over to cover the defender, and the duel was joined.

At the first buoy, the Canadian had worked out a 45-second lead over Stork, with Meteor trailing throughout. The second leg was a reach, and the leader from the Royal Canadian lost precious minutes trying to ease a spinnaker before giving it up. At the second buoy, Stork had closed to 8 seconds astern. The third leg, which returned to the home mark and ended the first tour of the triangle, was a spinnaker run—the kind to give armchair sailors conversation for seasons to come. At no time were the boats more than a length apart, sometimes barely a bow apart, but with Canada's Dixon, the onetime Douglas Cup dinghy champ, clinging to the hair-line advantage.

Only 2 Seconds Ahead

Circe rounded the home mark and started the second tour of the triangle only 2 seconds ahead of Stork. This second buck to windward was a duplicate of the first—again Circe's coffee-brown hull pulled away from the white defender until the margin at the next turning buoy was just under a half minute. On the second-last leg, again a reach as the first time around, Castle shaved the margin to 23 seconds.

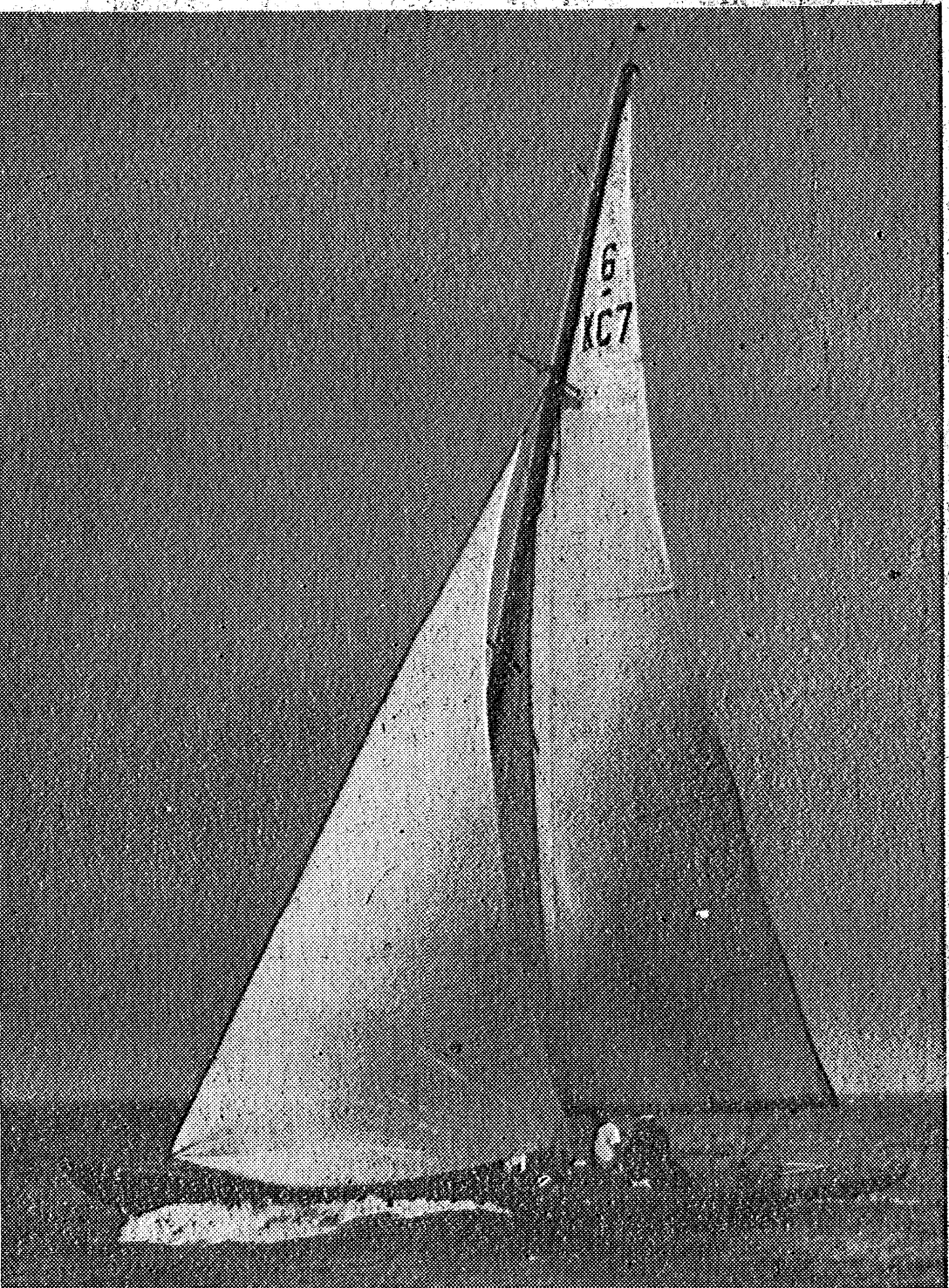
Then came the final leg, a picture of spinnakers and tension, with the Rochester boat steadily narrowing the distance while the seconds ticked away. But Dixon was making no mistakes; was duplicating Friday's flawless race. Time ran out for Castle with the boats 18 seconds apart, and Canada had cracked the Rochester monopoly that had lasted since 1939 when the late Bill Barrows in Thisbe brought the historic trophy across the lake to the southern shore.

Start, 11:30; finish times: Circe, 2:34:39; Stork, 2:34:57; Meteor, 2:42:24.

HALF-HITCHES—RYC folk, while mournful at losing the historic Sifas George mug, nevertheless conceded that Canada's victory will give 6-meter racing a big boost on Lake Ontario. . . . it dispels the feeling that had been growing through the years that an RYC boat couldn't be beaten. . . . Yet Circe's victory should come as no shock to the local waterfront, for the brown racer, when owned at RYC by Johnny Odenbach, had an annoying habit of spanking the Stork and winning trophies.

Dixon, his crew, and the Canadian visitors were amazed as well as delighted by unbridled wave of congratulations and noise-making over the Toronto victory. "Never saw such a bunch of good sports over losing a cup," they murmured time and again. . . . Circe's victory no doubt will underscore the old yacht racing maxim that the boat that goes best to weather wins most often.

In hindsight, it was Dixon's gamble of sticking out the first race with a damaged mast and getting a second place, that paid off and won the trophy; had he dropped out then, not even his later two firsts would have won the cup.



CANADIAN VICTOR—Circe, of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, yesterday captured the International George Cup title for Canada for the first time in 13 years. The sloop is pictured making time on a broad reach. Reg Dixon tillered victor over Jerry Castle's Stork of the Rochester Yacht Club by barely 18 seconds after a brilliant yacht duel.

Wings Win 3rd Over Impote Ottawa, 4

By GEORGE BEA

The answer to any problem in the Shaughnessy this season is Giants Baseball Club, Ottawa, Ont.

Our opportunist advantage of the Pints for the third night when they in a game that it was nearly enough to win.

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