

ODENB

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2ND ANNEXED

BY KLITGORD IN METEOR

By CLIFF CARPENTER

Rochester Yacht Club Six Meter skippers showed yesterday they are becoming accustomed to obstacle racing.

By the time the afternoon was over, Johnny Odenbach's dark-hulled Circe had lived up to advance warnings and spanked her two competitors—thereby tightening the Todd Trophy series.

But before the "Sixes" could even begin to race, they had to (1) rig their boats by tiptoeing over catwalks in the flooded RYC basin, and (2) wait patiently until a first-class pea soup fog finally lifted. The other classes decided the fog an excellent reason for spending the day working on their boats—and did so.

With the mist rising, Race Judge A. H. (Bud) Gorsline laid out a true windward-leeward course into the east, and gunned the three "Sixes" over the line at 3:30. Going into the race on a record of two succeeding firsts, Rooney Castle was first to the outer mark after a sharp buck to weather in puffs that sometimes hit 25 miles. Running faster on an earlier-hoisted spinnaker, Meteor with Howard Klitgord at the tiller slipped through on the slide back to the home mark and rounded ahead to start the second beat to weather.

This second weather leg told the story. Odenbach carefully jockeyed Circe to a point where she slipped around the outer mark to leeward with a 20-second margin. Bad luck in the form of a snapped permanent backstay kept Meteor from making it a closer fight on the run home—but luck or no, Circe was ahead and winging and whether she could have been overtaxed is hereby added to the volumes of "ifs" that make up every yacht race.

START: 3:30; finishes, elapsed time. Circe, 45:23; Meteor, 45:54; Stork, 46:07.

The "Sixes" backed perhaps by Lightning, Dinghy and Star fleets, will take the starting gun this morning, weather, fog, flood and snow permitting.