



DURNAN IS AN EASY WINNER

HAINES HAD HARD LUCK.

Large Crowd Witness Struggle for American Sculling Championship—Near Disaster at Boat House.

While Eddie Durnan was a winner from the start in the race for the sculling championship of America yesterday afternoon, in fairness to William Haines, the English coach of the Boston Union Boat Club, who challenged the local man's title, it must be recorded that the latter had a run of bad luck. Durnan is admittedly the superior oarsman, quite capable of whacking the Boston coach, but the 100 yards clear water space that separated the shells at the finishing buoys yesterday, is scarcely the margin of difference between the two contestants.

SHELL SHOE BROKE.

Haines had covered about a quarter of a mile of the three-mile course, when one of his shell shoes broke through the middle. Under this disadvantage he labored all the way. On the return journey, too, Haines was shamefully treated by the scores of motor boats that sped along in front of him, lashing the waters into turbulence. Durnan, on the other hand, had smooth water, he being on the Island shore, only came in for the tail end of the troubled surface.

NO OFFICIAL TIME.

Durnan's time is given as 20:12 2-5, but that can not be taken as accurate. The time was not checked officially. The above time was taken on the referee's boat, Luella, which was about 400 yards behind Durnan when he finished, and the champion could not be seen passing the flags owing to the innumerable small craft swarming around. One thing is certain, however, and that is that the watch was not stopped any too soon. There is no doubt that Durnan made better time than is indicated above.

HAINES' QUICKER STROKE.

Haines went off with a 34-stroke-a-minute clip, while Durnan contented himself with 31. The challenger was taking two strokes less in the third minute and the champion went plugging along at 31. Just as the gun was fired, a big hulk ran across the bow of the Luella from which Mr. Claude Macdonell, M.P., was refereeing the race. A mile and a quarter of the distance had been covered before the Luella got close enough to the contestants for its occupants to ascertain "how the wind was blowing." By this time Durnan had a lead of a length and a half, and he increased the leeway with every stroke until the turning point was reached at 9:37 2-5. Haines headed for home at 9:55.

A PRETTY TURN.

Durnan's knowledge of the art of turning a shell is equal at least to two lengths of a handicap. He never made a more skilful pivot than he delighted his friends with yesterday. With his back to the setting sun, the champion maintained his "thirty" stroke, and Haines dropped to 29, and each stroke of the latter was obviously less effective than the steady pulls of Eddie

The race was lost and won by this time. Durnan fairly skimmed through the smooth water on the inland course while Haines gamely battled all the way through the waves left in the wake of the motor boats, though he was well beaten before this. When three-quarters of the course had been covered, Durnan's stroke had fallen to 28 and Haines was rowing one less, about twelve lengths behind.

THE WEIGHTS.

Physically both men were in the pink of condition. Haines is the heavier, weighing 161 lbs., while Durnan turned the scale at 146.

Loud and long siren blasts greeted the Toronto boy as he approached the buoys so far ahead of his challenger.

UNTIMELY DIP.

After the race there was a near disaster at the Argonaut boat house, when the referee's boat was disembarking its cargo of newspaper men and privileged persons. More than a score of people were standing on the float hearing Haines' story of how his shoe had broken, when the float chain snapped, and the whole caboodle were precipitated into the waters of the bay. Fortunately there was a deal of expert assistance right at hand, otherwise the consequences would have been serious. They were all fished out in a short time, and then a raid was made on the wardrobe at the boat house.

THE RACE IN NOTES.

Durnan would have won anyway.

The broken shoe just let Haines down a little lighter.

Haines is by no means a pretty sculler.

The Boston man gets the strokes, but not the speed.

Durnan was in front at every stage before and after Haines broke his shoe.

Haines is 46 years old, Durnan 40. The challenger is a strong puller, but looks more like a waterman than a champion sculler.

The betting was light, owing to an absence of Haines money. It stood 2 to 1 and stronger for the champion.

Haines made his stand at the half mile and failed to regain any of the lost ground. Durnan was too fast and going too smoothly for him.

Nat Scholes made a decidedly good job of getting Durnan to the mark on edge.

The champion was confident before the race. He said, "Haines will have to row much faster than his best trial to win, or I have gone back tremendously."

As usual, the public in motor boats showed their utter lack of common-sense, not to say courtesy. At the finish Haines was practically shut off, and wound up by getting off the course and stopping amid a swarm of rowboats, canoes and other craft. Durnan had, however, finished seconds before this.

The last mile was simply a row-over for the champion, though he put on a sprint to finish the last quarter.

Jimmie Cosgrave rowed all the way

home on the course slightly ahead of Durnan and in front of Haines. He showed that he has all his speed left, but he had no business on the course all the same.

Eddie Durnan was very happy, naturally. After receiving the greetings of his friends he gave his story simply. "Haines rowed fast for the first three-quarters, and I had all I could do to hold him. It was too much for him, and when he found he could not shake me the race was over at the mile. I had him then, and both he and I knew it. That is all."

Haines steered a straighter course than Durnan, but the champion never had a superior in turning a buoy.

Durnan gets \$1,000 stake money and the two divided about \$500 boat money.

Referee Macdonnell congratulated Haines on his plucky race.

Durnan's last defence of his title was against Tom Sullivan on the bay five years ago, the latter being beaten at the turn, when he got the wrong buoy and then hung on his own by his rigger.

The prospective races for Durnan which are still in the air are against Hackett at Fort William and against Wray.