

and Fishing



THE CHAMPS—Joe Balcao (left) brought home the Pacific Coast championship for Class SK boats last weekend from Clear Lake. Balcao finished the main race a half mile in the lead. Joe Bianchini (right) is the man who furnished the powerplant for the 18-foot craft. The new boat can travel at speeds in excess of 100 miles an hour. Balcao hopes to shoot for the national SK title in 1965.

Balcao-Bianchini Return Boat Racing Crown

The Pacific Coast championship for Class SK inboards has been returned to Stockton.

Joe Balcao and Joe Bianchini returned the title from Clear Lake last weekend. Balcao held it in 1961 and 1962

but lost it to Hayes Humphrey of Sacramento in 1963.

Balcao is the boat's owner and Bianchini owns the machinery that churns the craft at speeds in excess of 100 miles an hour in racing or up to 150 miles an hour in quarter-mile drag racing.

Last weekend at Clear Lake, Balcao piloted his still unnamed craft to first place by more than a half mile over Carl Wishek Jr. of Lodi. Ed Brown of Clear Lake, the national champion in SK boats last year, was third.

Balcao is not eligible for the national championship this year but he intends to compete for the title in 1965. He must enter the boat in races all over the United States and build up enough points to be eligible. He plans to do so with the boat that brought the Pacific Coast crown back to Stockton.

Humphrey, who held the title in 1963, was driving a Bianchini powered craft. He won most of the 1964 honors in the Capt. Weber Days boat competition in Stockton in July.

Last weekend's race was the first time Balcao's craft was entered in competition and only the second time it had been in the water.

SK class craft have between 500 and 800 horsepower, are 18 feet long, and have a flat bottom construction.