

## Lake Erie Race opens Great Lakes Circuit July 10

By Shirley Levy

The 7th annual Lake Erie Race will open the 1976 Great Lakes Racing Circuit with a noon start Saturday, July 10, in Buffalo.

At least 70 boats are expected to participate in the Lake Erie Race Series, sponsored by North Cape Yacht Club, Lasalle, Mich., in cooperation with Sandusky Sailing Club, Sandusky Yacht Club, Mentor Harbor Yachting Club, Erie Yacht Club and Buffalo Yacht Club.

Three series races, averaging approximately 63 miles in length, will 'feed' the fleet from the west end of the lake to the east.

The first feeder, from Sandusky to Mentor, will begin at 8 p.m., Sunday, July 4.

The second, from Mentor to Erie, will start at 8 a.m., Tuesday, July 6.

The third, from Erie to Buffalo, will be held at 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 7.

Yachts with a minimum IOR rating of 21.0 are eligible for overall trophies in the LER and in the combined series.

There will also be a Performance Handicap Racing Fleet division open to yachts with a PHRF rating of 228 or less.

The 6000-pound minimum

displacement requirement, which made it necessary to turn away several Viking 28's last year, has been eliminated. Yachts in either division, however, must have a nominal length of 27 feet minimum.

In 1975, the yacht *Twain*, co-skippered by Charles Britton and Ted Pinkerton of Mentor Harbor Yachting Club, won the Vittoria Trophy for first overall in the series.

The yacht *Kahili II*, skippered by Frank Zurn, Erie Yacht Club, won the McIntyre Trophy for first overall in the

Lake Erie Race and the Masker Trophy for the best elapsed time, setting a new record of 35:14:51.

The Lake Erie Race, one of the longest freshwater sailing contests in the world, is unique in having no marks of any kind to restrict the course or the skipper in his or her race across the lake from Buffalo to Lasalle.

The 210-mile event is the core race of the Lake Erie Offshore Racing Championship Series (LEORC) which was initiated in 1971 by the Inter-

Lake Yachting Association to stimulate interest in long distance sailing on Lake Erie.

Starting in 1976, scoring of the LER will be based on the high point system to bring it in line with the method used for LEORC scoring.

The Lake Erie Race schedule is coordinated with the Mackinacs, making it possible to sail a Great Lakes Circuit, beginning with the LER, then moving on to the Port Huron-Mackinac Race sponsored by Bayview Yacht Club, Detroit, on July 17, and the Chicago-

Mackinac, sponsored by Chicago Yacht Club, July 24.

The LER is also one of 35 offshore races which may be used to qualify for membership in the Offshore Racing Club of America (ORCA). Participation in any 2 qualifying races and a total of 1000 miles offshore is necessary to meet the requirement.

Further information is available from Charles Burkelman, Lake Erie Race Committee Chairman, c/o North Cape Yacht Club, Lasalle, Mich. 48145.

## Rochester threesome qualifies for Solings trials

Wilmont V. (Jerry) Castle, John M. Odenbach Jr., and Denis (cq) Doyle, three Rochester (N.Y.) Yacht Club sailors, qualified for the Olympic Trials in Solings June 20-22 during the Midwest District eliminations in Chicago.

Castle took 5th place in the competition among 27 boats; Odenbach, 7th, and Doyle, 9th. First place winner was Buddy Melges of Wisconsin, a former Soling Olympic gold medal winner.

"None of us beat Melges in any race," Odenbach was quick

to admit with a laugh, implying such a feat seemed like the impossible dream for the three men. It was their first try to qualify for the Olympics.

In the trials (June 12-20 at Association Island near Watertown, N.Y.) Odenbach also admitted it would be lucky if any of the 3 placed 15th.

"That would be a victory," he announced, adding that their competitors included 12 to 14 sailmakers, "semi-professionals you might say."

Nonetheless the threesome considered their Chicago feat a victory, especially since 3 of the 4 Soling crews that ventured from Rochester's shore for the event came home winners. Rochester's Soling fleet, with 15 in its ranks, is the largest in the Midwest District.

Castle's crew included his son Ted (who Memorial Day Weekend qualified for the World Laser Championships scheduled for August in Keil, Germany), and Bill Morse. Odenbach's two brothers, Gar-

ner and Fritz, sailed with him, and Richard Walsh and Erik Zeller crewed for Doyle. All are of Rochester.

This is Odenbach's 4th year racing Solings; last year he was 3rd for the season in the Rochester fleet. Castle, who has been sailing Solings for more than 6 years, has won the district championship and placed in the North American Championship. Doyle, also sailing Solings for 6 years, was 8th in the North American and 4th in the Great Lakes Championship last year.