

Atomic Cup Report

Brandt Starts with a Win!

Starting 2004 where he left off 2003. Dave Brandt brought his **Pico American Dream** home in first place of the season opening Atomic Cup. Brandt had a tremendous day as he drove his **Squire Shop** to a perfect day and won all but one heat with his Pico. Facing the dilemma of which boat to run in the final, Dave chose his old reliable Pico, leaving the point perfect Squire on the beach.

It didn't deter Dave though as the Pico took the lead at the start and was a quarter lap ahead before anyone even noticed. He finished unchallenged and way ahead of the field.

A great race was mounted for second as Dave's dad, Bill charged hard at the end trying to get a family 1-2. David Newton who, while the trailer, passed a whole batch of boats in turn one. His **Miss Budweiser** took over second at the end of lap one and held off the challenge of the senior Brandt with his **Close Call**.

Curt Anderson started off his season right with a fourth place finish with his **Circus Circus**. Brian Anderson just tried to finish all day long, yet somehow found his way into the final for his best performance, fifth, in some time with the **Domino's Pizza**. Roger Newton failed to finish with what had been until the final heat his hot running **Miss Budweiser**. Jeff Stubbers flooded at the start and just drifted across the starting line with his **Coor's Light**.

David Newton made his way to the final with a great run in the first consolation race with his **Miss Budweiser**. David made a great start and avoided trouble. Chasing him was Lee Robertson who was bringing out his **Miss Budweiser** for the first time. Troy McIntire was third with the **Olympia Beer** followed by Gary Grembowski with the **Budweiser Light**. Way back was last year's race winner with the **Atlas Van lines**. Gary Jensen was running hard with the **Hallmark Homes**, but ended up upside down in pieces after a bad encounter with the water.

In the no-move up second connie, Harry Gatjens got a perfect start with the **Miss Budweiser**, but then slid out a bit and got involved in a battle with Jeff Heimkes with the **Executone**. Gatjens re-established the lead and Heimkes ended up going over in the first turn of lap four. This left the door open for Mick Shutt to take second with the **AB Natural Light** followed by rookie Scott Meyers with the **Miss Exide**. Marc Connelly's "white knife" the **Notre Dame** failed to finish and Steve Doolittle's **American Spirit** failed to start.

The weather was perfect, a large crowd turned out to watch the first race of the series. Race host Brian Lepinski and his dad got everything set up for Friday testing. Saturday was more testing followed by the Oberto and Budweiser shoot outs. Unfortunately only one boat finished each of those so David Newton won the Bud shoot out and Robert Roberts won the Oberto shoot out.