

Commodore Edward V. Rippingille, of the Detroit Yacht Club, openly criticized the 1939 Gold Cup race immediately following the running of the event on the Detroit River Monday evening.

"To have 11 entries," the Commodore said, "six starters and only one boat finish the race leaves only one conclusion. The preparation for the event is not complete. They (owners, drivers and mechanics) put their Gold Cup boats in the mothballs for 11 months out of the year and expect them to run 90 gruelling miles with a month's preparation.

"It can't be done, as the results today show, and as was proved last year when Count Rossi's Alagi and the Miss Golden Gate were the only boats to finish."

Rippingille suggested that the Gold Cup race on Labor Day should be a climax race, with at least two races staged prior to the final event "to get the boats in shape for this race."

"You can test a motor on a block," he continued, "but a hull must be tested in a race in the water."

He added that Count Rossi's Alagi, winner last year, was a successful boat only because the Count raced his craft summer and winter.

"I propose that we have the first of these 'Gold Cup test races' June 15 and then have another one later on before the Labor Day final," he said. "Then we'll know whether we're going to have a race.

"The City of Detroit has in this Gold Cup spectacle a great show. We need more interest in this event and I believe it should be spread over the summer."

Backing the D.Y.C. commodore in his opinion was Charles F. Chapman, eminent Eastern boat racing authority, editor and official.

"The race today," Chapman said, "showed inadequate preparation."

Concurring with this opinion was Augie Duesenberg, Rippingille's guest at the race.

Duesenberg is one of the designers of the Notre Dame's 24-cylinder Duesenberg motor.

Louis Chevrolet, who designed the crankshaft for the Notre Dame motor, added his voice to Rippingille's and Chapman's, saying that the preparation should extend over a long period of time for both hull and powerplant.

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