

# THE BEACH REPORTER

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## Near record time in Catalina Classic (9/2)

*By Jim Leinonen*

Water conditions were perfect for an elite field in the 29th annual Catalina Classic paddleboard race last Sunday from Catalina to the Manhattan Beach Pier and one racer took advantage of it.

Ryan Addison of Malibu jumped out in front at the start and never gave up the lead as he cruised across the finish line in a wire-to-wire victory for the second fastest winning time in the history of the event - five hours, nine minutes and 40 seconds.

After finishing second a year ago, he was elated to win his first Catalina Classic by defeating defending champion Sean Richardson, who finished fifth, and a pack of other paddlers.

"It's incredible," Addison said. "Words can't explain it. It's just such a great feeling when you train for six months out of the year and it finally pays off."

Kyle Daniels of Redondo Beach, who finished second, saw Addison just long enough at the start to exchange a few words.

"I think I said 'good morning' to him about a minute into it and never looked back," Daniels said. "I should have said 'goodbye,' too."

It was just the fourth race in the Catalina Classic for Addison, 32. He won the stock division in 2001 and finished second in that same division in 2000.

The pack (Daniels, George Kabris, Richardson, Brian Zeller, Matt Jackson) that trailed Addison for most of the race felt they might reel him in once they hit the R-10 buoy off the Palos Verdes Peninsula but that never happened.

"He held a great pace," Daniels said. "There was the one point where I think the group thought we could catch him but he responded and just kept plugging right along."

"I tried not to look back and I just put my nose to the grindstone," Addison said. "I knew that Joe Bark made me an awesome board and I knew that thing was just going to fly."

But the Catalina Classic is unlike any other paddleboard race. It can best be compared to an ultra-marathon where runners go 75 to 100 miles in a day. Over the long distance, a person can be his own worst enemy.

"My mind likes to play a lot of games but there are so many levels, you go up these hills and you go down these valleys," said Addison. "One minute you feel great and the next you're thinking, 'Oh, they're all catching me.' The whole race you've always got to be, I don't know how to say it, but mentally you just have to keep going and know that if you're hurting, then the guy behind you is hurting, too."

Usually the leader in a long distance race falls back, unable to keep the pace, but Addison felt comfortable getting out to a quick lead.

"I knew it was going to be a fast pace right off the get-go just because everyone wants to get out," he said "There is so much adrenaline. You've been training for it for six months, and you just want to go out there and get it. I went out a little harder than I wanted to but everyone was going out hard. Then I was able to just get a lead right from the get-go and build that lead a little bit."

Daniels, 28, who won the race in 2001, gave Addison credit and looks forward to a challenge a year from now if Addison returns.

"Ryan should take pride that he has the second fastest winning time in the classic, especially in today's conditions," Daniels said.

Tom Duryea, 39, of Coronado, took first place in the stock division for the third consecutive year.

"(It was) fast and furious," Duryea said. "It was a deep field for the unlimited class and they set just an unbelievable, blistering pace. It went well for the stock class, too. We had a good run."

Asked why he competes in this race, Duryea replied, "It's certainly the most steeped and storied race. It's the benchmark from which all others are measured against. To compete in it, it's an honor and a privilege. To get your name on the perpetual trophy is, what can I say, some of the all-time greats are on that trophy and to be included on that is an honor."

Since the Olympics have been in the forefront the past two weeks, Duryea, Daniels and Addison were asked if any Olympian inspired them during training or the race. Two of them picked Lance Armstrong.

"The Tour de France, watching Armstrong get his sixth," said Addison. "I even laminated a picture of him, put him on my board just so when I knew I was hurting I would look down at him. He's an incredible athlete so that's what motivated me, as far as another athlete."

Daniels was inspired by his sister and wrestler Rulan Gardner, the American who earned a bronze medal at the Olympic Games. After his final match, he placed his shoes in the center of the mat. In the sport of wrestling, it signifies the end of a wrestler's career and Daniels said that touched him.

For all the competitors, their reasons for competing in the Catalina Classic vary, but Jim Stanfill of Manhattan Beach gave his.

"It's basically a race against yourself," Stanfill said. "It's longer than a marathon so you feel like you have really accomplished something when you finish. The true watermen all do this race."

Jane Cairns, who just completed her fifth race, was the only woman to participate this year. She would definitely like to see more of her female counterparts in the water.

"I wish there were more out there," Cairns said. "There are a few, they'll come. They will be coming to do it again. I want to do it 10 years in a row so this is my fifth."

Cairns finished fifth overall in the stock division, quite an accomplishment.

"Jane is a seasoned veteran in this race and has raced it many times," said Buddy Bohm, co-race director. "With the popularity of paddleboard racing and surfing by the women, we look forward to having more ladies paddling in the future."

Bohm summed up this year's race.

"The most striking feature about this year's race was that we had eight previous winners competing," Bohm said. "With eight previous winners, the competition was real high. That coupled with almost ideal conditions made it a real competitive race."

There were 71 paddleboarders starting the race and 70 finished. They came from Australia, New York, Hawaii and the majority from California.

"Right now I'm ready for a rest. Probably around February I will start thinking about it, getting fired up again and ready to go," said Addison.

This year's race was dedicated to the memory of Jimmy Miller, who was a lifeguard, surf school owner and instructor, and paddleboard racer from Manhattan Beach. He was a former Catalina Classic participant who died recently.

The top two finishers in each division get their name on the Catalina Classic's perpetual trophy currently on display at Watermen's Restaurant in Manhattan Beach on Manhattan Avenue near 12th Street.

The top six finishers in each division earned a trophy:

#### UNLIMITED

1. Ryan Addison, 32, Malibu, 5:09:42
2. Kyle Daniels, 28, Redondo Beach, 5:14:01
3. George Kabris, 39, Oxnard, 5:15:45
4. Brian Zeller, 34, La Jolla, 5:19:12
5. Sean Richardson, 42, Palos Verdes Estates, 5:22:38

6. Matt Jackson, 33, San Diego, 5:28:38

#### STOCK

1. Tom Duryea, 39, Coronado, 6:03:32

2. Brian Szymanski, 36, Cardiff, 6:19:00

3. Mike Murphy, 25, Torrance, 6:21:50

4. Jay Scheckman, 41, San Diego, 6:30:01

5. Jane Cairns, 34, Santa Barbara, 6:58:09

6. Jeremy Grosvenor, 34, Amagansett, N.Y., 7:02:21

#### [Near record time in Catalina Classic \(9/2\)](#)

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#### [Female surfers get their day in the sun \(9/2\)](#)

The Hello Kitty Boardfest and professional surfing contest made its debut last weekend in Manhattan Beach with a shortboard and longboard surf contest, surf clinic and festival aimed toward female surfers of all ages.

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