

The Hobie Nationals at Key Biscayne

By Jerry Ober

OCC's sailing representative, Leith Anderson, placed 9th overall in the 1974 Hobie Cat Nationals held at Key Biscayne, Florida, in October.

This was veteran sailor Leith's best showing ever in Nationals competition. Leith says the major difference between this year's Nationals and

previous years was wind. There was plenty. Leith reports that the conditions were similar to sailing on a fresh trade day off Waikiki. The winds were apparently part of a diminishing storm, as it was cloudy with occasional rain.

The starting fleet numbered more than 100 boats, all on the starting line at once. Leith, enjoying the Waikiki-like conditions, sailed into 1st place in Race No. 1. The races were held over a 3-day period. The final day the fleet was split in two, each group sailing at different times. Leith had a 1st, 8th, 4th, and 3rd and was tied for 5th overall with $16\frac{3}{4}$ points going into the last day. Unfortunately a ripped sail on the 2nd day of sailing forced Leith to use an unfamiliar sail, doing nothing to help protect his position. As a result, he took 9th overall.

Winner was Wayne Schaffer, 2nd Hobie Alter, 3rd Randy Hatfield, and 4th Robbie Barrell of Kailua, Oahu.