

## **EQUATION** wins North American Championship *Gold Digger* and *Glory* also post strong results

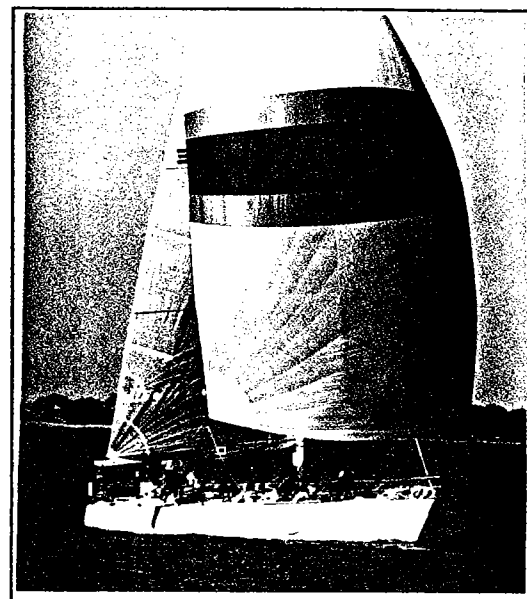
NEWPORT, RI (Sept 26) - Bill Alcott, sailing his J/44, *EQUATION*, held off strong second day performances from Jim Bishop's *GOLD DIGGER* and former Delaware Governor Pete DuPont's *GLORY* to win the fifth running of the three day J/44 North American Championship Regatta. Alcott is from St. Clair Shores, Michigan. Chip Barber, Executive Director of the J/44 Class Association, presented Alcott and his crew of twelve the J/44 Perpetual Trophy at ceremonies held at Goat Island in Newport today.

Alcott dominated the first day of racing. *EQUATION* was undefeated in three races. Sailing in clear skies and a northerly breeze on Rhode Island Sound, the fleet completed three windward/leeward courses. *EQUATION* showed great boat speed, handedly winning the first two races. In Friday's third race, however, she followed DuPont's *GLORY* until the final leeward mark rounding. *GLORY* looked like a certain winner, but the

wind shifted to the southwest just yards from the finish, giving the trailing boats the advantage. *GLORY* had to settle for a sixth place while *EQUATION* logged her third bullet of the day and had a 7.5 point cushion going into the second day of racing.

Saturday saw the big J's sail four windward/leeward courses in moderate southwesterlies. In the first race Jim Bishop's *GOLD DIGGER* was over early. *DIGGER* immediately split with the fleet, going to the far right side of the course. When she came back, she was able to cross ahead of the competition. She covered and protected her lead to win the fourth race.

Race five again saw *EQUATION* dominate. She built on her lead throughout, finishing ahead of *GLORY* and *GOLD DIGGER* in that order.



*Equation* winning the North American Championship Regatta in Newport, RI.  
Photo by C. Barber

Throughout the regatta, Alcott and his crew showed great crew-work and sail trim. Boat speed was impressive.

*GOLD DIGGER* won Race six by 24 seconds over *LOOSE GOOSE* in freshening winds.

In the seventh race, Barry Mavin's *MABUHAY* and *EQUATION* fought a close battle

