

Laumann buoyed by World Cup victory

By JEFF PASQUALE
Sports Reporter

Silken Laumann's mother never told her she shouldn't waste her time with buoys.

But now Silken wishes she had.

It seems Laumann got tangled up with a California buoy, one lining the course during the opening race of the World Cup rowing circuit, held Sunday in San Diego.

TANGLED WITH BUOY

But Laumann, who had a large seven-second lead over defending World Cup champion Titie Jordache of Germany when she got tangled up the buoy during the 2,000 metre race, recovered to beat Jordache in a time of seven minutes, 58.4 seconds. Jordache was second in 8:04.9.

"I'm really happy with the win," said Laumann from her family's home in Mississauga. "This is a real boost for my confidence."

The win was the first ever for Laumann at a World Cup race, a world-wide circuit similar to the World Cup circuit in downhill skiing. Last year was the inaugural season for the circuit.

But Laumann's getting mixed up with the buoy wasn't a complete surprise.

"Last year there were a number of problems on this course with the buoys. Because the course is on a bay, the currents tend to make the lanes misaligned.

"I knew about the problem but

during the race I was concentrating so much on my speed and technique I forgot about it."

It didn't take Laumann long to recover from her misadventures, however.

"I lost my grip on my oar but it only took me a second to find it and then another couple of seconds to get going again," explained Laumann, who is now living and training in Victoria, B.C. "It's unusual to have this kind of a problem at a high calibre meet, but I guess it's something they're going to have to work at."

Although Laumann won the race, her time of 7:58.4 is actually quite slow.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

"It's still early. In a couple of months I'll be going 15 or 20 seconds faster than that. But then so will everybody else."

Long term, Laumann is gearing for the 1992 Olympic Games but this year the goal is the World Championships, August 18-25 in Vienna, Austria.

"I'm a lot stronger now than I was a year ago."

The reason Laumann is back in Mississauga instead of Victoria is she is being honored in Hamilton as the Ontario Female Amateur Athlete of the Year.

"I was really pleased when I heard I won that," said the Lorne Park Secondary School grad. "It's really quite an honor."



Silken Laumann, pictured after her 1984 silver medal performance at the Los Angeles Olympics, is back in the news. The 25-year-old rower won first place at the first World Cup meet of the year, Sunday in San Diego. She's back home to accept the 1990 Ontario Female Amateur Athlete of the Year Award.