

# Blind sailor to create overnight sensation

Guide Collins  
Annapolis  
St. Mary's College

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s can't hide his glee  
he awaits the biggest  
ment of his Special  
eer.

lle resident will have  
compete for the first  
Governor's Cup Yacht  
e entrance of the An-  
nor to the shores of St.  
ege late the next

. Overnight.  
undertaking for any  
en more challenging  
is legally blind like  
been since he was 8  
own with retinitis pig-

said he has no idea  
ct in the race that be-

gins tonight at 6 and ends tomor-  
row.

His sailing experience has been  
limited to short two-hour trips.

"It's exciting," said Collins, who  
navigates by listening for the  
wind flapping the sails. "I've never  
been out all night before. I  
haven't even thought about what  
I'll be doing at 3 a.m. in the morn-  
ing. I've been too caught up in the  
excitement of the race."

"I also sail by feel," said Collins  
who has been sailing eight years  
through the Maryland Special  
Olympics.

Collins is considered an accom-  
plished sailor by his peers such as  
Jim Muldoon, who will be the  
captain of the yacht *Donnybrook*,  
which will have Collins and his  
partner, "Skipper" Todd Croteau,  
aboard.

Muldoon said Collins is a "natu-  
ral" on the water.

"I'm fascinated by his ability to  
sail," said Muldoon, who has com-  
peted in the event 30 times and  
owns the record time of six hours

and nine minutes recorded in  
1994 when he captured his lone  
Governor's Cup. "He does it by in-  
stinct and probably takes aural  
commands. He feels the wind and  
the motion of the boat."

Collins found out only a week  
ago he would be sailing with Mul-  
doon, and the two have never  
been out on the water together  
before.

No need to worry.

"We have a fully experienced  
crew to make sure everything  
goes smoothly," said Muldoon,  
who is chairman of the Board of  
Trustees of St. Mary's College.

Collins was delighted when he  
learned that his boat would be eli-  
gible for both the Special Olympics  
trophy and the Governor's Cup. A  
Special Olympics class has been  
added this year, with Special Olym-  
pics Maryland sailors partnered  
with other experienced racers.

"I've been waiting all week for  
this," he said.

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## GOVERNOR'S CUP YACHT RACE

**When**//Tonight at 6 through  
tomorrow morning

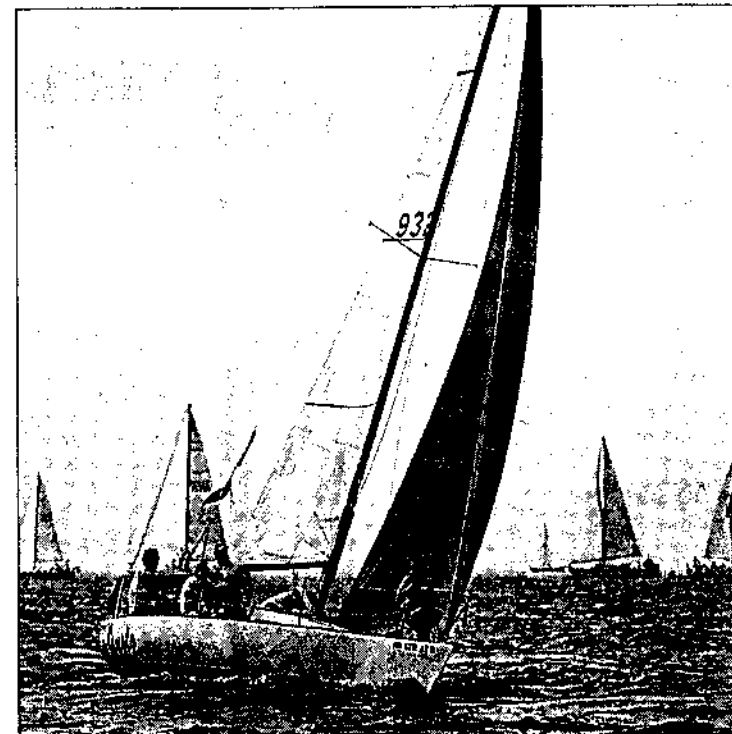
**Where**//Annapolis Harbor to  
St. Mary's College

**At stake**//Nearly 160 yachts  
will compete in 12 classes in the  
Chesapeake Bay's oldest and  
most prestigious overnight  
yacht race

**New addition**//A new  
Special Olympics class has  
been added to the competition

**Silent auction**//At the  
conclusion of the race there will  
be a silent auction to raise  
funds for Special Olympics  
Maryland's sailing programs

**Party time**//St. Mary's  
College will host a post-race  
party beginning at noon



Sailors compete in last year's Governor's Cup race, where Rock-  
ville's Ben Collins will make his first appearance tonight.

BARBARA HADDOCK TAYLOR [SUN PHOTOGRAPHER]