

Surf News Network's Beach Beat

Pipeline Bodysurfing Classic Won By Mike Stewart

by Scott A. Hartvigsen

The purest form of wave riding, bodysurfing, was taken to new heights during the 1991 Pipeline Bodysurfing Classic by professional bodyboarder Mike Stewart. Mike has recently perfected a belly spinner, similar to the bodyboarding variety, but without the board! And although Mike was unable to pull one out of his bag of tricks during the Pipeline Bodysurfing Classic he was able to do several barrel rolls similar to the one he won the Morey Boogie Bodyboarding Championships with just a few weeks earlier at the Pipe.

And following in Mike's footsteps as usual Ben Severson secured 2nd place by applying his extensive Pipeline wave knowledge and years of bodysurfing experience to earn yet another second behind Stewart.

It was almost like a "coup" as the two professional bodyboarders worked their way through the pack to end up at the top in the finals.

Defending Champion Mark Cunningham earned 3rd. This final was so star-studded and close that the actual places are almost over-shadowed by the competitor's reputations. Mark is a giant in the bodysurfing world, with a movie made about him, and serves the northshore community as a lifeguard at Ehukai.

Local family man, Chris Robinson, made his first finals after several entries and was stoked to surf with such a high ranking crew in good Pipeline barrels.

In his first competition since 1978, Doug Allard, reclaimed his position as a top Pipeline rider and got some great tubes on his way to a 5th place showing. Doug was competing with some serious reef rash and cuts across his chest that he acquired during a nasty wipeout at Backyards before the event. The fact that he competed was amazing.

Famous photographer, Don King, was winning heats on his way to the finals. He surely would have been 2nd or 3rd except for a rare interference call where Don cut-off Ben Severson and dropped out of the tube and landed on Ben. No serious injuries accrued. According to competitor Alec Cooke, "In professional bodysurfing a cut-off is only interference if contact is made."

The Northshore Bodysurfing Club sponsored the event. Event director, Alan Lennard, said, "this years competition was filled with talent and drew competitors from the neighbor islands."

Alan made the event a little more special when he invited super model, Cindy Crawford, to take a break from a Vogue photo shoot to help with the awards ceremony. She accepted his invite and her congratulation kisses made the finalist's accomplishments a little sweeter.

Ironically, Stewart left the beach to catch a plane for California before the winners were announced and missed his prizes and kisses from Cindy. Stewart's trainer, Adam Salvio, excepted the trophy, prizes and kisses on behalf of Mr. Stewart.

Judges included pro bodyboarders Jack Lindholm and Dean Marzol.



Ben Severson collects his 2nd place trophy, prizes and a big kiss from model Cindy Crawford after the Pipeline Bodysurfing Classic. photo: Hartvigsen

Sean Collins'

WAVE-TRAK

PHOTO BY HARTVIGSEN

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