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Villwock, David in battle for unlimited hydros title

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Ten unlimited hydroplanes are scheduled to leave this week from Jacksonville, Fla., on a cargo ship bound for Doha, Qatar. The second Oryx Cup UIM World Championship will take place Nov. 19-21 on Doha Bay.

This will be the sixth and final stop for the H1 Unlimited series, and the national championship will be up for grabs.

Dave Villwock, driving the Spirit of Qatar, closed the gap on Steve David (Oh Boy! Oberto) in the national high-point race with his dominating performance at San Diego. Villwock trails David by 186 points after making up 320.

Villwock's win on Mission Bay was his 61st, tying him with Chip Hanauer. In the Oryx Cup, Villwock gets a chance to tie Bill Muncey (62 wins) for the most wins in unlimited-hydroplane racing.

David, who won at Tri-City and Seattle this summer, will try to fend off Villwock in the high-point race for the second time at Doha. The last boat to win three straight national championships was the Miss Budweiser (1997-2004). Only two other boat teams have won three in a row - the Miss Bardahl (1963-65) and the Pay 'N Pak (1973-75).

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