

Best to come for Jacobs after third spot



Tim Jacobs was delighted with his third place in Hawaii.

Jason Avedissian
ocean paddling

EXPERIENCED Freshwater paddler Tim Jacobs ended a five-year absence from the prestigious Molokai World Championships in Hawaii to claim a podium finish.

The 30-year-old was third in a high-quality race that featured several multiple winners of the 32nd annual event.

Among them was another peninsula paddler Dean Gardiner, a nine-time Molokai winner.

The 43-year-old couldn't make it an even 10, finishing fourth behind Jacobs who equalled his

previous best with a third place over the 51-km course.

"The result on Sunday was probably better than five years ago because the who's who of paddling were there this year," Jacobs said yesterday.

"It's probably the best field ever put together for a ski race.

"It took a lot of hard work and training preparing for the race and to come up with a third placing, I'm pretty happy with it."

But Jacobs is tipping his best years are still to come. It's a sound theory, with most ocean paddlers peaking in their later years.

"I think I can definitely improve," Jacobs said. "It's only a matter of time before I get a win."

Jacobs gets a chance to jump on top of the dais when he lines up in a World Cup regatta in Durban, South Africa, next month.

The African adventure is part of several official and unofficial races held around the globe for ocean paddlers.

Jacobs and Gardiner were not the only peninsula paddlers to feature among the leaders in Hawaii with Dave Kissane (ninth), Damien Daley (14th), Steve Coulter (16th) and Narrabeen's Mark Anderson (26th) all performing well in tame conditions.

"It was a hard slog," Jacobs said. "There was an eight to 10-knot tail wind behind us, but no big swells."