

OKs Head for Europe

Five OK dinghies will leave Auckland tomorrow for the world championships in England in July, but their skippers will not head for Europe until June 1.

Last night the yachts and all their associated paraphernalia were loaded into a container, which will be shipped on the New Zealand Pacific.

Greg Wilcox, Joe Porebski and the Bamford brothers, Paul and Michael, will start their European campaign at Kiel week in Germany on June 6. Then they hope to compete in the Danish championships at the end of June.

National champion Leith Armit will join them in England for the British championships at

Torquay on July 16, which will be followed by the world contest at the same venue from July 22.

Armit finished second in the 1978 world championships in Holland, while Wilcox is the only other skipper with European experience, having finished ninth in France two years ago.

About 80 competitors from 14 countries are expected to sail in the world series, which will be held over seven races.

The five New Zealanders have had to raise about \$5000 each for the trip. The costs have been kept down as the New Zealand Yachting Federation arranged a good freight rate with the New Zealand Shipping Corporation for the yachts.



Greg Wilcox packing his OK into a container last night.

DOMINION

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SPORTS SHORTS

YACHTING: Five New Zealand yachtsmen leave today for the World OK dinghy championships in Torquay, England. Joe Porebski and Greg Wilcox

of Wellington, Leith Armit of Auckland and brothers Paul and Michael Bamford of Lyttelton will participate in the event to be sailed July 22-30.



A WINNING combination — New Zealand OK champion Greg Wilcox on his way to victory in his boat Halloosinashun in the final race of the series yesterday.

Kiwi Leith rules OK

By RICHARD BECHT

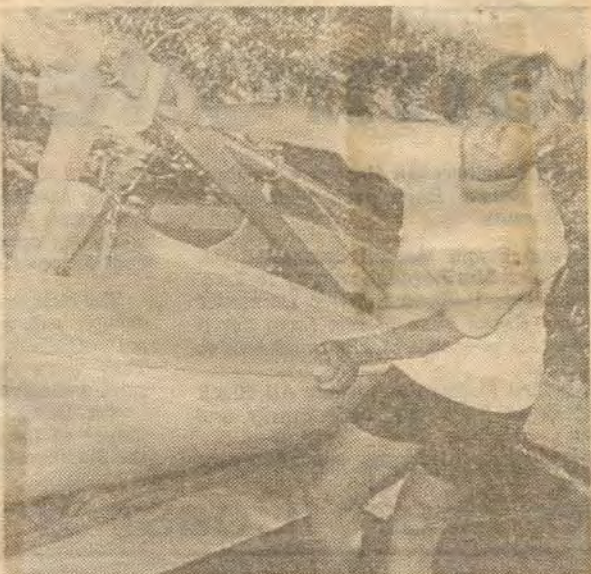
AUCKLANDER Leith Armit has given New Zealand yachting's already golden yachting year yet another boost by clinching the world OK dinghy title in Torquay, England.

The 22-year-old Mairangi Bay yachtie yesterday gave New Zealand its second major international triumph in a matter of only weeks.

Just recently, Aucklanders David Barnes and Hamish Wilcox reinforced New Zealand's international yachting reputation by again taking the world 470 title.

And now Armit has continued New Zealand's domination in the last decade of the world OK dinghy title hunt.

Five times in the last 10 years a Kiwi has taken the OK crown, the late Clive



LEITH ARMIT . . . continues New Zealand domination in world OK champs.

with Peter Lester, Richard Dodson (twice) and now Armit following.

Armit promised so much when, as a 17-year-old, he became the world junior OK champion after finishing second in the 1978 world championships.

He rang his mother to tell her of the news yesterday but admitted he was in "quite a dazed state and not quite sure exactly what had happened".

Only six races were sailed in the series — the seventh was cancelled — with Armit's counting finishes being 1, 4, 7, 1 and 7.

Association secretary Bev Roberts, wife of the late Clive Roberts, said: "I think it's great that a New Zealander's won this again. The fact a New Zealander has won the world title five times in the last 10 years says something."

Armit now heads to Milwaukee for the Finn Gold Cup competition but he wasn't the only New Zealander to excel in the world OKs.

Right up there with the top finishers was Wellingtonian Greg Wilcox, the current interdominion champion, who finished