

Operations Challenge

A Sunny California Day in Miami

The average October day in Miami Beach, Fla., probably resembles most days in Southern California—sunny and 75°F. On Tuesday, October 24, in fact, it was *all* California inside the Miami Beach Convention Center at Operations Challenge.

Two California teams dominated this year's event at WEFTEC'95. The L.A. Wrecking Crew from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts captured the Division I title for the third consecutive year, and the Wastewater Warriors from the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District won the Division II title. It must be something in the water out there, or what's *not* in the water?

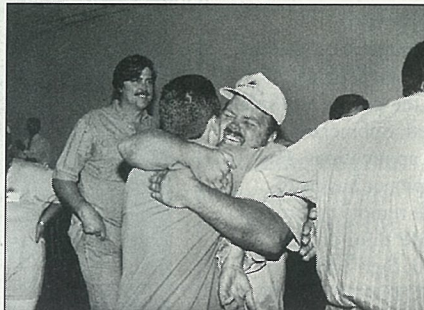
"They want to win," says Wrecking Crew coach Dave Hickey to explain the three-time success of his team. And again more slowly, "They *want...to...win.*"

Consistency was the key to the team's success, according to second-year veteran Gustavo Caro. The team, in fact, did not win any of the five individual events, but its score was strong enough in all five to take the overall lead.

Wrecking Crew member John Dyer, who also has been with the team for all three wins, admitted that they did not practice as hard this year as they had in 1994—a bitter pill for the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) team from Virginia, which was narrowly defeated by the Wrecking Crew

for the third year in a row. But HRSD also had an impressive showing, taking first place in both the pump maintenance and safety events.

The New England Synergetics seemed elated by their third place award, having just missed the top three last year.



In the limelight: three-time Division I champs, L.A. Wrecking Crew, accept their award. (From left to right: WEF Operations Challenge Committee chair Douglas Miller; team members Clarence Scherich, Gustavo Caro, Bill Shuck, and John Dyer; coach Dave Hickey; and committee vice-chair Clarence Kuykendall.)



The Division II winners, the Wastewater Warriors, will advance to Division I next year, as will the other top four teams in Division II and teams placing in the top three of individual Division II events. Division II, which was created to enable teams from smaller member associations to participate in the competition, includes new teams (a team from Argentina will participate next year) and those not placing the previous year.

And what about states without the resources to form a Division II team? According to Douglas Miller, chair of the Water Environment Federation Operations Challenge Committee, another competition may be started for them in the next few years. Could this mean Division III? "Why not?" Miller says.

Like past Challenges, this year's competition comprised five events: pump maintenance, collection systems, safety, laboratory, and process control. The collection systems event saw the only major changes from the previous year. Last year, teams were required to replace a section of pipe with a tee section while water was flowing through it. This year, however, teams had to set up a sampler, take three samples from a pipe with water flowing through it, and generate the accompany-

ing paperwork. Winners were selected in each event and overall based on accuracy, safety, procedure, and speed.

Although WEFTEC attendees are well acquainted with the excitement of Operations Challenge, this year, a national audience also was offered a glimpse of the competition through a pregame segment on ABC's *Good Morning America*. Miami's channel 7 news also covered the competition.

Will next year's Challenge champions wind up on the *Late Show with David Letterman*? More importantly, what will the weather be in Dallas during WEFTEC'96? Will it be like another sunny day in Southern California? A cooler Hampton Roads October afternoon? Or will there be New England snow?



Portraits of excellence: Division I second place winners, HRSD; Division I third place winners, Synergetics; and Division II first place winners, Wastewater Warriors (from top to bottom).

Top Ten Overall—Division I	
Team (Member Association)	Points
L.A. Wrecking Crew (Calif.)	459.46
HRSD (Va.)	436.71
Synergetics (New Eng.)	412.09
Commode Commandos (Rocky Mt.)	361.21
Team GRU (Fla.)	321.02
Humber Aerobic Club (Ont.)	308.87
Austin Blues (Texas)	305.02
Amherst Agitators (N.Y.)	304.54
Wastewater Rangers (Ohio)	271.74
Highlanders (Ont.)	265.77



Top Ten Overall—Division II	
Team (Member Association)	Points
Wastewater Warriors (Calif.)	400.64
River Rangers (Pac. NW)	389.91
Cincinnati Power Flushers (Ohio)	383.78
Ecology Busters (Alaska)	370.28
Genessee River Raiders (N.Y.)	358.53
HRWTF Comets (Va.)	356.16
Cowtown Hustlers (Texas)	339.44
Shovelers (Gen. Sts.)	329.29
MSD Urban Assault (Ky.)	328.58
Tampa Eliminators (Fla.)	323.06



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Collection Systems—Division I		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
Austin Blues (Texas)	1049.72	100.00
Amherst Agitators (N.Y.)	1068.59	98.21
Synergetics (New Eng.)	1136.15	91.82
Humber Aerobic Club (Ont.)	1211.53	84.69
L.A. Wrecking Crew (Calif.)	1246.37	81.39

Collection Systems—Division II		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
Genessee River Raiders (N.Y.)	1029.75	100.00
WREPresentatives (Ind.)	1147.09	80.25
Pioneers (N.J.)	1160.33	78.03
River Rangers (Pac. NW)	1181.66	74.44
Ecology Busters (Alaska)	1191.91	72.71

Process Control—Division I		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
Team G.R.U. (Fla.)	581.31	100.00
L.A. Wrecking Crew (Calif.)	644.56	95.36
HRSD (Va.)	795.81	84.26
Synergetics (New Eng.)	836.41	81.28
Humber Aerobic Club (Ont.)	1018.50	67.92

Process Control—Division II		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
Wastewater Warriors (Calif.)	935.43	100.00
Genessee River Raiders (N.Y.)	1124.28	86.97
River Rangers (Pac. NW)	1126.87	86.79
Lava Riders (Hawaii)	1279.47	76.27
Shovelers (Cen. Sts.)	1291.25	75.45

Pump Maintenance—Division I		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
HRSD (Va.)	280.06	100.00
L.A. Wrecking Crew (Calif.)	309.00	92.71
Who Cares (Calif.)	355.75	80.93
Commode Commandos (Rocky Mt.)	404.53	68.64
Synergetics (New Eng.)	431.07	61.95

Pump Maintenance—Division II		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
Ecology Busters (Alaska)	458.00	100.00
Prime Pumpers (Rocky Mt.)	468.28	99.93
Wastewater Warriors (Calif.)	461.45	99.08
Cowtown Hustlers (Texas)	466.81	97.66
Cincinnati Power Flushers (Ohio)	488.77	91.83

Laboratory—Division I		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
Wastewater Rangers (Ohio)	1051.06	100.00
L.A. Wrecking Crew (Calif.)	1075.66	95.43
Thoroughbreds (Ken.-Tenn.)	1122.97	86.64
Amherst Agitators (N.Y.)	1125.30	86.21
Synergetics (New Eng.)	1137.35	83.97

Laboratory—Division II		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
River Rangers (Pac. NW)	1097.71	100.00
Pioneers (N.J.)	1105.71	99.12
WREPresentatives (Ind.)	1108.36	98.83
Central States Pumpers (Cen. Sts.)	1123.05	97.23
MSD Urban Assault (Ken.-Tenn.)	1152.25	94.03

Safety—Division I		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
HRSD (Va.)	125.87	100.00
L.A. Wrecking Crew (Calif.)	138.25	94.57
Synergetics (New Eng.)	141.66	93.07
Who Cares (Calif.)	153.91	87.69
Commode Commandos (Rocky Mt.)	156.99	86.34

Safety—Division II		
Team (Member Association)	Seconds	Points
HRWTF Comets (Va.)	165.50	100.00
River Rangers (Pac. NW)	175.44	97.35
Ecology Busters (Alaska)	200.97	90.54
Prime Pumpers (Rocky Mt.)	236.65	81.03
Pumpers (Cen. Sts.)	237.75	80.73

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Operations Management	assembled the trophies.