Bloemeke, Morton Are Junior World Champions

Steve Bloemeke and Greg Morton, first and third place skippers in the U.S. Junior Nationals, teamed up to win the 1982 World Junior Championship Vierci Luino Trophy, at Northern Yacht Club, North Sydney Nova Scotia. The nearest margin possible under U.S. Rules Mike Segerstrom and Kim Thompson. The score was tied at six points, with three first place finishes and two second places each. With the throw-out race reinstated as the tie breaker, Steve and Greg were judged winners, with a 4th place second race, against Mike's DNF in the high wind third race.

Spain's Carmen Borrella and Javier Borrella were third at 32.7 points, only 1 ahead of AlbertoVieira and Cristina Migone of Uruguay at 32.8. Horacio Carabelli and Joaquin Padico, also of Uruguay were 6th. The close score, when most teams were using unfamiliar equipment, in an unusually high wind series, which contributed to breakdowns and errors, showed the strength of the class juniors throughout the world.

One dramatic upset of the series occurred before racing even began. As Steve and Greg sailed out for a practice run, they noticed a buoy marking the only shallow spot in the whole area, stuck bottom with the board, and immediately expoused. They righted the boat in waist deep water, but the force of the collision has driven the board back against the trunk, splitting the fiberglass, and causing a leak into the inner hull.

Fortunately, they had both skill and fiberglass at hand for repairs, and before the opening ceremony was over, the boat was upside down at Astaphen's garage, patched and drying under Kim Thompson's fan dryer.

Monday's registration, sail measuring, and boat weighing, was eliminated by the opening ceremony and party for all contestants, who were entertained by a championship drill team, and the Spring of Hendry tapestry band. Race Committee Chairman Steve Aronfelsen welcomed all contestants and promised them fair sailing. Vice Commodore Doug DeSouza, SCIRA Representative, raised the SCIRA flag as the official opening of the regatta.

On Tuesday the skippers meeting was followed by a practice race. The scheduled first race of the series was first postponed, and then cancelled because of threatening clouds.

The first race got underway on Wed...
Wednesday morning in light shifty offshore winds of 8 to 10. The two U.S. boats led all the way in this race, with Steve finishing first and Mike second. A huge shift on the last beat brought Damien Borjas of Spain back in the pack into third place, leaving boats caught on the lee side of the course way out at the finish.

The second race, delayed first for replacement of a broken boom fitting on one boat, then for a fog signal to pass, and then for a wind shift, got underway in winds about the same velocity as the first, but shifting more westerly. In this race Mike led at every mark, with Javier Lopez Varela, Spain, in second, and Horacio Carvatti, Uruguay, in third. Steve finished in fourth place.

Thursday morning's rain was replaced by fog as boats paddled toward the starting line in the lightest of breezes. At the start, the fog was lifting, and winds were 12 to 15, building. As the boats reached the windward mark with Steve in the lead, they took off on a scurrying pace, and the wind increased. All went well until the jibe mark, where Javier of Spain capsized as he jibed the boat. Other boats were soon in trouble including Hoover of Uruguay, Tommi of Finland, and John from Chile. Mike dropped out when his rudder popped loose for the second time in the race. The Race Committee changed the course to two triangles to avoid a dead-downwind leg in the heavy wind and rain. Steve, who led all the way, capsized immediately after the finish. Damon was second, and Alberto third.

The wind diminished somewhat in the afternoon, but the rest of the day was devoted to rescue and repair of damaged equipment.

On Friday the pressure was on competitors and committee alike to complete three races, thus assuring a throw-out race for the series. The wind was at least cooperative, providing 12 to 15 for the first race, and 15 to 18 for the second. Again, there were some problems with unsecured masts popping out of the off-wind legs. In these two races Mike and Steve exchanged firsts and seconds, and Alberto (Continued on page 10).
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had two thirds to Damien's two fourth place finishes.

The wind was more moderate for the sixth race which featured heavy competition between Mike and Steve for the entire course. Both had their problems. Steve hit a mark, and both crews went overboard, when steps gave way under the heavy pressure of 'jumping'.

Mike held the advantage to the finish with Steve second. A terrific battle developed between the two through most of the race, with Alberto gaining finishing third. Horacio held Damien on the last beat, but lost out on the last set to the finish, giving the fourth place to Damien, and taking the fifth place.

Saturday morning the two US. teams were tied, and only a whisker thin...