

SPANISH JUNIORS WIN 2001 JR. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Spanish skipper Raul de Valenzuela and crew Jose La Toore Martinez returned to the Snipe Jr. World Championships with the determination to win the regatta. Their 3rd place finish in the last Jr. Worlds defined their determination. The win was not easy and the Spanish Juniors showed maturity in their win.

The Junior Worlds were held at Mentor Harbor Yachting Club in Cleveland, Ohio. Members of the club organized great housing for the juniors with almost everyone staying within walking distance of the club. Todd Sackett organized a great fleet of boats, which provided any team a shot at a top finish.

This championship was held in a variety of wind speeds, 5 – 25 knots, providing all the teams their wind of choice. Boat speed through chop and a ability to hit shifts, as usual in major Snipe regattas, paid off. The practice race was held in 8-12 knots.

The next day, first day of the regatta, a cold front came through with 25 plus knots. Races were cancelled and US sailor Bryan Lake used the day to surf the channel of Lake Erie on a sailboard while other sailors practiced their kite flying.

The regatta started with NE breezes of 6-12 knots in chop left over from the day before. Valenzuela/Martinez and US sailors Bryan Lake and Graham Biehl traded the top spots with Lake/Biehl pulling away on the last beat and crossing the line first.

Race 2 wind was lighter with even more chop. The Argentinian team kicked in with skipper Emanuel Botello and crew Mariano Zarza leading the majority of the race only to have teammates Adolfo Benavidez/Federico Pierson pass them on the final beat. US sailors Dave Hochart and Piet Van Os finished 3rd with teammates Lee Sackett and Drew Hamilton finishing 4th.

Brazilians Marcos Mascarenhas and Pedro Tinoco do Amarag started at the boat in the 3rd race and never looked back. In a dimishing wind the Brazilians stretched out their lead. Spaniards Valenzuela/Martinez held on to second the entire race while the US sailors Lake/Biehl rallied from 7th to finish 3rd.

The final results of the Championships

came down to the last beat of the last race. While Spanish sailors Alvares and deLeonPerdomo held an awesome lead Lake (USA) tried to put a boat between himself and Valenzuela. A last leg shift sealed the win as Valenzuela/LaTorreMartinez hit the left side and hiked their way to 4th.

Raul and Jose credited their coach, Carlos Llamas, a former Snipe champion, as their "inspiration and guidance" to winning this Championship. Their teammates, Rayco Tavares Alvares and Mariano de Leon Perdomo finished 3rd surrounding Lake/Biehl by Spanish sailors. US sailors Dave Hochart and Piet VanOs rallied with a 1-2 in the last two races to end up 4th. Brazilian sailors skipper Marcos Mascarenhas and crew Pedro Tinoco do Amarag were very close to the leaders but unfortunately a blown clew grommet in the final race set them back.

The highlight of the social schedule was the "sports night" organized by the Mentor Harbor Yacht Club members. An impromptu International Soccer Championship took place with all countries scoring at least one goal. Meanwhile US sailors



were giving batting lessons in the cages and watching balls getting hit out of control. A great evening making international friendships.

A warning to the 2003 Worlds entrants, to encourage Snipe sailing, the top 2 teams from this championship qualify... y tienen hambre!

Photo above: top 4 Jr. World teams gather for prizegiving: Rayco Tavares & Marinao de Leon Perdomo, Raul de Valenzuela & Jose La Torre Martinez, Graham Biehl & Bryan Lake, Piet VanOs & Dave Hochart

Results

Skipper/Crew	Country/SailFinishes	Total
1. Raul de Valenzuela/Jose LaTorre Martinez	ESP29787 2-(13)-2-1-3-6-4	17.75
2. Bryan Lake/Graham Biehl	USA29104 1-(10)-3-2-2-8-5	20.75
3. Rayco Tavares/Mariano deLeon Perdomo	ESP29184 5-(12)-7-4-4-2-1	22.75
4. Dave Hochart/Piet VanOs	USA28468 6-3-5-8-(10)-1-2	24.75
5. Adolfo Benavidez/Fredrico Pierson	ARG22718 3-1-6-5-5-7-(10)	26.75
6. Emanuel Botello/Mariano Zarza	ARG27860 7-2-4-(10)-7-3-8	31.00
7. Marco Mascarenhas/Pedro Tinoco	BRA28650 8-6-1-3-1-14-(dnf)	32.50
8. Lee Sackett/Drew hamilton	USA28575 14-4-(15)-6-6-5-6	41.00
9. Rafael Godoy/Bernardo Futuro	BRA29523 9-9-8-11-9-(zpg)3	49.00
10. Otto Nielsen/Chris Pederson	DEN29020 (16)-8-14-7-11-12-7	59.00
11. Maria Stefano/Stephanie Quesada	URU29346 4-5-16-9-13-14-(dnf)	61.00
12. Tatiana Lartseva/Ekaterina Bessonova	RUS29490 12-7-11-16-(ocs)-4-13	63.00
13. Eugeny Ryzhikov/Semen Chritsov	RUS29480 13-(15)-10-12-8-9-14	66.00
14. Santiago Gari/matias Murguia	URU27869 10-(14)-13-13-12-11-11	70.00
15. Jon Andre Seather/Halvor Garaas	NOR28359 11-11-9-(19)-16-15-12	74.00
16. Christian Anderson/Jonas Midtgaard	DEN29869 (18)-16-12-15-15-17-9	84.00
17. Jorgen Fremstad/Eirik Solbakken	NOR27696 17-(19)-18-14-14-16-16	95.00
18. Benjamin Romain/Jeremie Bouridane	FRA29835 15-17-17-17-18-18-(dnf)	102.00
19. Morgan McKinney/Jameson Damianos	BAH29210 19-18-19-18-17-(19)-15	106.00
20. Derek Taylor/Peter Kneulman	CAN29317 20-20-dns-20-19-(20)-17	116.00