The 15th Western Hemisphere Championship held in Sao Paulo, Brazil October 19-27 was won by Brazilians, Ivan Pimentel and crew, Carlos Dohner. Their finishes were a consistent 3-2-2-3-1-2 for a total of 17.7 points. Not many winners of this championship throw out a third place.

Second place was taken by Marco Aurelio Parardea and Luiz Pejovic, the defending champions, also from Brazil. They sailed well, finishing with 22.4 points, but could not overtake the eventual winners.

Third place went to Mark Reynolds and DeAnn Wright from the U. S. A. Like the winners, this was their first big international championship. With 27 points, they sailed well, and were in the lead after the first three races, but Pimentel's consistency was not to be denied.

Pimentel and Dohner are natives of Rio de Janeiro, which entitles them to the appellation of "Carioca." Ivan is an architect and has been sailing Snipes for seven years. He has also sailed in other classes but is now concentrating in the Snipe class. His efforts were rewarded this year with the Brazilian National Championship and now the Western Hemisphere Championship. Pimentel will be another name to watch from the highly competitive Brazilian sailors.

Racing was held on Lake Guarapiranga which was quite adequate in size. It is a water reservoir for Sao Paulo but was only at 40% of capacity because of the shortage of rainfall. It was possible for the minimum 5 mile course using the standard Olympic course, but race committee chairman opted for the longer 7 mile course and used a variation on the Olympic course. This was a triangle-windward-leeward-triangle-windward course and proved to be an acceptable substitute.

The wind conditions were reminiscent of Valle de Bravo, Mexico, the site of the Pan American Games in 1975. Since the wind was usually light in the mornings no races were planned until the afternoons. As always, the wind did not cooperate and it was necessary to sail some morning races. The winds were moderate except for two fairly heavy wind races, but there were no drifters.

The race committee chairman was our new commodore, Flavio Caiuby who also acted as general chairman.

The first race started in winds of 8-10 which eventually built up to 15 by the end of the race. Pimentel was first at the first windward mark followed by Reynolds in second. Lenhart was in third. On the third leg, Reynolds overtook Pimentel and by the second windward mark Lenhart was in second place. Lenhart picked up Reynolds before the third windward mark and held that position to the finish. Pimentel finished third and Paradea fourth.

On Sunday, the second race was (Continued on page 8)
Bebita, wife of Western Hemisphere Secretary Horacio Garcia Pastori, poses with second place winners Marco Aurelio Paradeda and Luiz Pesnovic. (Buzz Lamb photo)

Mark Reynolds and DeAnn Wright receive third place trophy from Celia Caluby. (Buzz Lamb photo)
at the first windward mark). This was the order of the finishes with Garra maintaining his fourth.

The next day the morning race was started in winds of 12-15. Since the morning winds were from the north, a reverse course was required. This is a rarity these days but there was no problem.

Here again the island affected the tactics and those that held a long starboard tack were rewarded. At the first windward mark Parada was first followed by Santos, Lisocki, Reynolds and Pimentel. On the reaching leg Pimentel went low and took over the lead. Lenhart went from sixth to second. Pimentel turned to the starboard side and lost both Parade and Garra. Pedro Carra had made a tremendous comeback as he was over the line early at the start.

The sixth race was scheduled for Thursday morning but there was not a breath of air. Shortly after lunch Flavio kept dashing about in his outboard motor boat and at 1330 shouted “Agua.” There still was no wind, not even the usual odor as the wind clocked over the sewer plant. Obediently, the troops put their boats in the water and the wind came up, to 12-15 at race time.

The positions at the first windward mark were Parada, Reynolds, Rawson and Pimentel. At the second mark Reynolds, as he was rounding, swerved to avoid a photographer who was in the water with an underwater camera. Rawson could not anticipate this nor avoid Reynolds so had to retire. This incident also caused Reynolds to drop Pimentel. At the finish, Parada was leading followed by Pimentel, Reynolds and Garra.

On the final day of racing the winds were the strongest of the series and in the range of 18-20 knots. This was wind in advance of a cold front that had played havoc with the fleet on the Buenos Aires to Rio race. There was a lot of suspense since only 2 points separated Parada and Pimentel. If Parada put a couple of boats between himself and Pimentel he would win. By all odds this did not seem to be unreasonable since Pimentel had drawn the boat that was slower in the hands of other sailors.

After a recalled start Pimentel was in control of Parada. This was another reverse course and all worked the island side of the course. Reynolds took the immediate lead. Parada did slip Pimentel’s cover, but Pimentel came towards the starboard side of the course near the windward mark, rounding first, capitalizing on a good shift. Reynolds, leading Parada had overstood, but was behind Pimentel. Lisocki almost caught Parada but not quite. Reynolds went high and dropped Parada and Lisocki. Reynolds got Lisocki back on the next reach.

On the second beat Pimentel covered Parada, allowing Reynolds to go free, and round the windward mark in the lead. Pimentel was second followed by Lisocki and Parada. Downwind Lisocki went to the starboard side and lost both Parada and lenhart who had worked his way from the back of the fleet. On the final beat Pimentel covered Parada like a glove and Reynolds won the race. Pimentel finished second, taking the championship, followed by Parada, Lisocki and Rawson and then Lenhart, who had taken a long starboard tack which did not pay.

The championship was very well run by Flavio Caiuby who was also the race committee chairman. All the boats were Carajas built in Sao Paulo and with a bit of tuning, seemed quite equal. Most of the masts were Bruder.

The host club, Clube de Campo de Sao Paulo was a large and interesting one. It covers many acres and has several departments - sailing, golf, tennis, swimming, and even stables for the horses. The social events were enjoyable and all participants had a good time.

Snipes are man-handled out of the lake by the official staff of the Clube de Campo. (Gail Colyer photo)