

Diaz/Rogers Top Hemisphere

Augie Diaz and Jon Rogers took the Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club in a very close series decided in the final race. This was definitely a world-class event with 25 teams qualifying from 7 countries and sailed in the Pacific Ocean off Long Beach, California. The sailors had to contend with rain, fog, light air and 18-knot breezes with a swell and chop. It was amazing to see the best in the world change gears and consistently wriggle their way to the front despite all of the varied conditions. The Alamitos Bay Yacht Club did an excellent job managing this event, with excellent race committee work on the water and wonderful parties back on shore.

The series started off with a practice race on Sunday in 15-18 knots and a bright sunny afternoon. The reaches were fantastic and we all thought was going to be some regatta! Then the actual racing started on Tuesday after all of the measuring. The California "marine layer" was a little thick, however everyone thought it was going to burn off. It didn't. The race was sailed in light air 6-8 knots with fog so thick that at times visibility was down to 100 feet. Randy Lake and Piet vanOs of the US lead the fleet with a commanding win, with the current World Champion Alexander Paradededa and Flavio Fernandes from Brazil and Augie Diaz/Jon Rogers close behind. The fleet had a difficult time finding the harbor entrance on the way in as the fog deepened to only 20-foot visibility; the support boats stood by the entrance and sounded air horns while others found the stragglers with radar. Wednesday also began with a marine layer however it burned off by noon and the fleet sailed the second race in light, but building breeze. Again, Paradededa/Fernandes, Diaz/Rogers and Lake/VanOs were out in front after hanging to the left on the first beat as if they had timed the 15 degree left shift to come in when they reached the corner. The third

race had the fleet back in their spray jackets as the breeze picked up in the afternoon and went right. Diaz/Rogers hit the pin end and crossed the fleet and should have never looked back. However, the competition in this fleet was relentless—Paradededa/Fernandes passed him on the downwind leg catching a little more air to the left of Augie. Thursday was the layday. Friday was more of the common Long Beach weather with sunny skies and light to moderate breeze from the southwest. Diaz/Rogers and Paradededa/Fernandes continued their close racing but the Brazilian continued his winning streak finishing first in race four but fell to 6th in the fifth race, while Augie remained consistent with 2 seconds.

On the final day of racing, it was raining with light air and the normal sailing area chocked with container ships that could not come into port due to a longshoreman labor dispute. The race committee moved closer to shore. Diaz/Rogers scored another great pin-end start while Paradededa was over early, restarted, but was



deep in the fleet with a dying breeze full of holes. He finished 13th and Diaz pulled out another 2nd. So it came down to the last race. Both Diaz & Paradededa knew there was throw-out. No surprise, the start was a match race between the two. Diaz won the start; his mission, to keep Paradededa deep in the fleet. Although Paradededa passed him, Diaz had achieved his objective, slowing the Brazilian down long enough that he only posted a 7th.

Another successful Snipe Championship with no protests filed and a new Champion crowned. What a great series; World class racing, World class fun!

—Bill Welch

Western Hemisphere & Orient

Results

1. Augie Diaz/Jon Rogers	USA28810	3-3-3-2-2-2-(9)	15
2. Alexandre Paradededa/F. Fernandes	BRA29821	2-1-1-1-6-(13)-7	17.25
3. Marcos Macarenhas/Pedro Caldas	BRA28650	5-(13)-7-7-4-5-2	30
4. George Szabo/Brian Janney	USA29957	8-11-5-4-(22)-4-3	35
5. Randy Lake/Piet VanOs	USA28854	1-2-6-12-(17)-14-1	35.5
6. Santiago Silveira/Nicolas Shaban	URU29827	6-(22)-8-6-3-6-8	37
7. Ivan Pimentel/Pedro Tinoco	BRA29815	14-10-2-16-1-1-(dnf)	43.5
8. Javier/Nicolas Ocariz	ARG28647	4-6-(21)-14-5-12-5	46
9. Shigeru/Toshio Matsuzaki	JPN30025	11-8-(12.5)-11-10-7-4	51
10. Henry Filter/Lisa Griffith	USA29867	17-9-4-5-14-3-(10)	52
11. Kenji Abe/Hiroshi Yamachika	JPN29527	(21)-7-12.5-10-8-9-11	57.5
12. Koji Ida/Hiromu Yamasaki	JPN29150	12-14-11-9-11-11-(19)	68
13. Pedro Garra/Ricardo Ferres	URU29251	9-18-10-(19)-18-10-6	71
14. Shigeo Takamura/Saturo Maruyama	JPN29464	(18)-12-9-8-8-16.5-17	71.5
15. Jimmie/Jody Lowe	BAH28811	13-17-17-3-(24)-8-15	73
16. Diego Garcia/Martin Dovat	URU29785	7-16-18-13-7-15(200)	76
17. Bryan Lake/Graham Biehl	USA29104	10-4-14-21-13-16.5-(dnf)	78.5
18. Marcelo Bellotti/Eduardo De Silva	BRA29823	15-5-(22)-18-20-19-14	91
19. Takeyasu/Sugiyama/M. Yasumoto	JPN29909	19-15-16-924)-15-24-10	99
20. Jorge Gonzalez/Tomas Depolo	CHI28864	20-(24)-19-17-19-20-16	111
21. Luciano Gubert/Alex Bunese	BRA29666	(23)-19-20-20-21-21-12	113
22. Bibi Juetz/Lucas Ostergren	BRA29913	(24)-21-24-1-5-16-18-21	115
23. Ike Gaete/Diego Bravo	CHI28838	22-23-(25)-22-12-23-22	124
24. Robert Dunkley/Kimie Isobe	BAH29899	16-20-15-(dnc)-dnc-dnc-dnc	126
25. John/Maggie Manderson	USA29684	(25)-25-23-23-23-22-13	129