

1st Women's World Championships



Top six skippers and crews gather with Commodore Horacio Garcia Pastori and Mrs. Roy Yamaguchi for the 1st Women's World trophy presentation. photo Masaaki Ozawa.

cation at the start. Ito/Morishita and the Marino sisters rounded out the top five.

Day two brought a solid 18-20 knot breeze that stayed consistent throughout the day. With the start of the first race, all crews found ways to de-power their rigs. Huge, choppy seas and a current were a match for all contestants. Kimie Isobe and Sekiko Watanabe rounded the weather mark first with Brigden/Biehl close behind. By the reaching mark, Brigden/Biehl had slid into first where they would finish with Isobe/Watanabe in 2nd and Davis/Welch from the USA in 3rd. Shirai/Isogai finished 4th, keeping their consistency of 10 ten races. The sister duo of Paulo and Monico Marino were caught in a damaging port/starboard during this race which would send them in for the day and award them yomp points for 6th in both races. The next day, they sailed a new charter boat.

The second race of this day, the wind picked up a little more, and after one recall, the competitors were off on a double triangle course. Kalin Berentsen and Gro Janine Kristansen rounded the weather mark in 1st followed by teammates Book/Juliussen, Japan's Shirai/Isogai and two US teams of Brigden/Biehl and Davis/Welch. Positions

changed on the reaches in the heavy, surfing conditions, and by the bottom mark it was Book/Juliussen in the lead followed by Shirai/Isogai, Brigden/Biehl and Berentsen/Kristansen. The finish had Book/Juliussen with a nice lead followed by Shirai/Isogai, Brigden/Biehl, Tsuchiya/Sudo and Davis/Welch.

There's an old saying in Japan that if you can see Mt. Fuji, it will be a windy day. Mt. Fuji was big and clear. The competitors, after a hike to the marina, found 25+ knot

winds awaiting them. The Race Committee and SCIRA representative postponed the races hoping for dying conditions. After 2 boats had been damaged in earlier races, thoughts were on their minds of the majority of the fleet of chartered boats. Finally at 3pm, when puffs rolled through the marina lifting boats slightly off their trailers, the races were cancelled for the day.

The final day's racing found all sailors at the marina early. With a day of rest due to the wind, all were out early ready to race. Early



Princess Takamado greets US sailors Mary Brigden, Sherry Eldridge, Lisa Foulke-Pline and Jerelyn Biehl as Fujiya Matsumoto looks on. Jiroh Kurita photo.