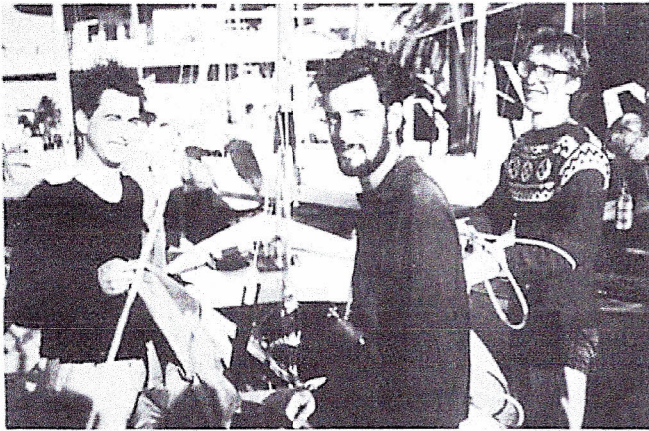


Western Hemisphere Title Still in Conrad Family

Two Brazilian Teams and One from the United States Dominated the Series



PROUD BRASILIANS - Nils Ostergren, official representative to the regatta from Brasil, is happy to identify himself with his championship team: Skipper Ralph Conrad (left) and crew Peter Reinhardt (right)

When a Sniper named Conrad from Brasil enters a regatta, he immediately steps into the "favorite" position. The two brothers, Reinaldo and Ralph from San Paulo, have captured many national and international Snipe honors on the past ten years, and the year 1966 was no exception.

Defending the title won at Brasilia, Brasil, in 1962 and successfully defended in Oakville, Canada, in 1964, Ralph took over the helm from his ailing elder brother, Reinaldo, and with the help of Peter Reinhardt, also from San Paulo, demonstrated that sailing ability was really a family trait. Chalking up a series of 3-3-1-1-4-1 (after dropping his worse race), he won the Western Hemisphere Championship title with 8913 points, a 358 margin over another pair of Brazilian brothers from Porto Alegre, Nelson and Reubens Piccolo. Adding the world-renowned Schmidt twins from Rio de Janeiro to the above duo impresses the fact that Brazilian sailors are TOPS, especially if they are brothers. And not only is the family rivalry strong, but also a geographical tinge enters between the Cariocas (Rio), Paulistas (San Paulo), and the Gauchos (Porto Alegre). The sport writers on the newspapers have a field day in this set-up and since sailing is one of the biggest national sports, public interest is kept at a high pitch.

Earl Elms and Jon Wegand, from San Diego, California, the current U. S. National Champions, finished in third place with 1-5-2-2-2-10 and 8420 points. They led the series with about a 3-boat margin at the end of the 6th race, but a bad 10th finish could not hold up with Conrad's 1st and Piccolo's 2nd, and the U. S. team lost a fine chance to get the trophy or the runner-up spot. Pierre Siegenthaler of Bahamas was 4th with 8036 points and Fernando Sanjurjo of Argentina took 5th with 7970.

The 9th Western Hemisphere Regatta (a biennial event held on the even-numbered years) was organized by the Uruguayo Yacht Club, Puerto del Buceo, Montevideo, Uruguay, and a series of 7 races was scheduled from December 3rd to 11th, 1966. Each country is allowed two teams maximum and so 16 champions from 8 different countries sailed these races over modified Olympic courses on the Rio de la Plata in front of the club, which is located not far from the Atlantic Ocean on the estuary, which is about 100 miles wide at this point. This shallow water has no tides and the current is negligible, but strong winds blowing from every direction can raise or lower the water level as much as 2 or 3 feet. The resulting cross currents (as the wind changes direction or dies down and the water moves accordingly) makes for considerable confusion at times and this unexpected and unpredictable irregularity can produce some devastating results. One never knows what to expect from one race to another.

Under WH rules, a skipper can use his own sails, but can not

use the same boat twice during the series, so drawings are held before each race to determine the boat used, which is furnished by the host fleet in as near equal quality as possible. Then sufficient time must be allowed for each skipper to rig his boat (within certain limitations) to his own liking.

On the whole, the weather was good all week, although Spring squalls and rains during the night kept the port closed for 2 mornings due to wave action. During the week, all kinds of sailing conditions were encountered, which gave a true test to both heavy and light weather boys. All the races were eventually sailed, although the last one Saturday night finished in total darkness (explaining the lack of timely pictures of the winners). The winds held a pretty steady pattern all week ranging from about 8 to 16 mph and usually dropped during the day with shifting toward the end of the late race. However, time ran out only once, and this race was re-sailed the next day. The last race finished just 4 minutes ahead of the gong.

The winning pattern was established early in the series when Elms, Conrad, and Piccolo started to finish high. After bad first races, Siegenthaler and Sanjurjo started to click and joined the leaders. From that time on, a fairly large margin separated these 5 from the rest of the fleet. Another feature was the fact that all victories were quite clear cut with the winners getting an early lead and sailing on to finish without any cut-throat competition. Excellent racing and close, but decisive. The boats strung out in Indian-file and, except for occasional brushes between small groups in the rear, that would be the race.

Elms got caught in a contradictory current in the middle of the course in the last race, while the Brasilians made for shore and, getting a good lift, took over at the windward mark and were never headed again. Piccolo tried his best to catch Conrad but the two of them finished in order about 4 minutes ahead of the nearest competitors. It was the nail that sealed the coffin. They came through when the chips were down and too much praise can not be given them.

The opening ceremony was held at noon Sat. Dec. 3rd when national flags were raised and contestants and visitors were greeted by national sailing and government officials at the club house. Boats were drawn that P. M., fitted up, and tried out in practice races later and on Sunday in stormy weather.

Waves were so high Monday A. M. as the aftermath of Sunday's squall, that the course was not open until that P. M. In winds of 8-12 mph, Piccolo of Brasil and Garra of Uruguay jumped into the lead. Three other boats joined them in pulling away from the rest of the fleet and at the weather mark it was Garra, Conrad of Brasil, Elms of U. S., Garcia Pastori of Uruguay, and Piccolo.

This line-up held around the reaching mark, but on the 2nd beat, Elms had changed places with Conrad. The wind was now a fairly steady 8 mph on this leg, but started increasing on the run, getting up to 15 in gusts. Here Elms turned on all the heat and gradually started to overhaul Garra with the other 3 boats closely bunched behind them. He gained a little on every tack and when the gun went off, was about 5 boat lengths ahead for a very satisfactory victory. Conrad was 3rd, and Garcia Pastori, who had sailed the course with a split rudder post (first leg) had an outstanding performance in maintaining his 4th position regardless. Pedro Dates of Argentina also worked up to 5th on this leg, pushing Piccolo back to 6th. The rest of the boats were far behind.

Tuesday morning saw winds of 40 mph dropping the river level about 5 feet and the port was closed. After noon, the wind started to drop and about 4 o'clock conditions permitted starting the race in a 5 mph breeze. The leaders split tacks at once, one group led by Dates going out into the river on a long port tack, while the others went into shore. The latter failed badly, for they had to fight a strong current created by the returning water. This practically decided the race, for the 5 or 6 river boats jumped into the lead at the

first mark and kept ahead of the rest of the fleet all around the course. Dates led Piccolo by about 6 boats throughout, finally crossing 32 secs. ahead. The rest fought in pairs up the leg in an Indian-file parade (reach) led by Conrad, Sanjurjo, Garra, and Garcia Pastori in order. Seavy, leader of the "wrong tack" boys, was next in 7th and Elms garnered a 10th.

The race Wednesday morning was called with expiration of the time limit. A start was made at 4:30 P. M. in a steady 18 mph wind with white caps 1 beautiful sailing. This race was marked by 3 boats - Siegenthaler, Elms, and Sanjurjo - pulling away from the rest of the fleet at once and staying there throughout the course, finishing in that position. Seavy was the lone pursuer who had a chance to get Sanjurjo, but in vain. Bahamas won by 35 secs. over Elms with Sanjurjo 1:30 min. behind. Another minute separated the next group. One incident marked this fine race when Siegenthaler rounded the reaching mark and headed high for the stake boat, which was not on the next mark. When 3/4ths down the leg and way off course, he suddenly spotted the red flag and made an abrupt right turn to the mark on a full run. It was quite a sight to see the entire fleet following him do exactly the same thing; only a few stragglers sailed directly to the mark. Anyone going down the hypotenuse of the triangle formed could have made time - but no one did! Conrad was over the line early in this race; did not hear the recall; got a DSQ as a result.

Thursday morning brought an overcast sky with a fair wind and rain. Start made at 1:30 in 15 mph wind as the storm let up. Conrad immediately took the lead rounding the windward mark first followed by Piccolo and Hayward. As they entered the second beat, the wind increased and brought disaster. 5 foot waves and winds which some estimated at 50 mph. broke 2 or 3 masts and caused some capsize. There was some wild confusion for a while with the rescue boats, but fortunately no serious loss was suffered. The race was not abandoned and 9 boats went on to finish with Conrad, Piccolo, Sanjurjo, Garcia Pastori, Elms, and Seavy in order. This race will be long remembered.

A squall brought rain and shifty, irregular winds Friday A. M. with the result that the starting gun for the 5th race was not fired until 3 P. M. Sailing was excellent with 14-16 mph winds. Elms and Conrad jumped into an immediate lead and it became a personal duel as to which one would win. Elms led by 15 secs. at the first 3 marks, but at the 2nd windward leg, which was more of a reach than a beat, Conrad took over and maintained his position during the run. When the final beat developed into a straight close reach, it was all over. They were 50 secs. ahead of the rest of the sailors, strung out in single file on the entire final leg from mark to mark with no close competition for anyone. Bahamas was 3rd all the way. The results of this race, which contained only one beat and 1/4th of a beat on another leg, caused considerable unhappiness.

The 6th race Saturday A. M. saw excellent sailing with 10 mph winds. Piccolo, Elms, and Siegenthaler (Bahamas) took the lead this time leaving the rest bunched up with Conrad and

Hayward (Bermuda) engaged in a dog-fight there. At the first mark, Bahamas led narrowly, but at the end of the 2nd beat, he was 10 secs. ahead of Elms and 1 min. of Piccolo. The wind got up to 18 mph and the boats flew downhill, and as it shifted occasionally, again the last leg was more of a reach than a beat. Bahamas had a sweet victory 20 secs. ahead of Elms and 2 min. of Piccolo. The rest of the fleet was far behind, but Conrad came in 4th and Hayward 5th.

At this point, Elms was in front overall of the two Brazilian teams by about 3 boat lengths, and it was evident that positions could change rapidly

at the top could change rapidly in the last and decisive race. Also, Bahamas and the two Argentine teams were only a few points apart and the fight for 4-5-6th places would be close and interesting to watch.

In spite of the fact that the morning race finished before noon and sailing conditions remained favorable, it was 4 o'clock before the RC arrived at the line. Then the wind started to drop and shifted so the the line was reset twice; at any rate, drop and shifted enough that the line was reset twice; at any rate, it was 5:45 before the gun went off. With a 2 1/2 hour time limit, that meant the race could run until 8:15, with darkness due about 7:40. The RC gambled that the winds would hold up — and they lost!

The fleet split up immediately with part going down the middle of the course and others, led by Conrad and Piccolo, going into shore on a long port tack. That was the right decision, for there they picked up a good wind and favorable drift, taking over the leadership of the race. Elms, out in the river, encountered unfavorable currents with less wind and by the time the first mark was reached, the Brazilians were so far ahead of the rest it was evident they couldn't be stopped. As the wind died down, dusk separated the boats all over the course, and one could distinguish them only by flashing lights on the sails. Conrad finished first in total darkness with Piccolo close behind at 8:11, just 4 minutes under the limit. The other boats came in many minutes later (Elms in 10th), and finally a search boat was sent out from the club to round up the stragglers. It was 9:20 when the RC boat finally left the course. Sanjurjo beat Siegenthaler and Dates in 4th and 5th. Thus only 94 points separated these boats in those positions in the final standings. They really had a contest!

Awards (accompanied by speeches) were made Saturday night shortly after the last race, followed by a social hour with light refreshments and dancing at the club.

Oscar Evert Everett, National Secretary for Uruguay, was the General Chairman of the Regatta and he had many very capable committees. The whole sailing fraternity of Uruguay joined in to make this a memorable and worthy event and all who attended can attest to the fine hospitality received. They provided good racing, too, in spite of many changes in the schedule and social program compelled by fickle weather; in short, they did an excellent job. SCIRA thanks these fine hosts for their effort as the 9th WH Regatta passes into history.

1966 WESTERN HEMISPHERE CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA
URUGUAYO YACHT CLUB - MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY - DEC. 3 - 11th.

/ = dropped race

BOAT	COUNTRY	SKIPPER	CREW	RACES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts.	Fin.
14414	Brazil	Ralph Conrad	Peter Reinhardt	3	3	1	dnf	1	4	1	8913	1	
12115	Brazil	Nelson Piccolo	Boris Ostergreen	6	2	2	5	3	2	8528	2		
16104	United States	Earl Elms	Jon Wegand	1	10	5	2	2	10	8420	3		
10826	Bahamas	Pierre Siegenthaler	Eric Schmidt	10	8	11	1	3	1	8036	4		
16139	Argentina	Fernando Sanjurjo	Enrique Alurralde	11	4	3	3	4	12	7970	5		
15378	Argentina	Pedro Dates	Ramon de la Llosa	5	1	7	5	6	8	7942	6		
14777	Uruguay	H. Garcia Pastori	Victor Trinchin	4	6	4	5	7	6	7505	7		
12705	Uruguay	Pedro Garra	Federico Latourette	2	5	dnf	12	9	7	7063	8		
6995	United States	Francis Seavy	Peter Duvoisin	12	7	6	4	8	10	6649	9		
13129	Japan	Yasuhiro Ohara	Nagao Wada	8	13	8	9	10	14	6036	10		
9882	Bermuda	Bernard Hayward	James Amps	7	11	dnf	10	12	5	5995	11		
10547	Canada	Howard Richards	J. Crook	9	12	9	7	13	11	5845	12		
6106	Canada	Ted Haines	L. Newell	15	9	dnf	11	dnf	13	5165	13		
10507	Bermuda	Richard Todd	Larry Lindo	13	dnf	dnf	dnf	11	9	dnf	4583	14	
16673	Paraguay	Carlos Gorostiaga	Juan C. Bobeda	14	14	dnf	14	14	15	dnf	4321	15	
16672	Paraguay	Eduardo Petit	Juan Scarpetta	dns	15	dnf	13	15	16	dnf	4011	16	