

14th Western Hemisphere Championship Won Handily By Marco Paradededa

Lenhart, Altmayer follow in ten-nation fleet at Nova Scotia

The fourteenth Western Hemisphere Championship was won handily by Marco Aurelio Paradededa and crew Luis Pejemove from Brazil. Their finishes of 1-1-2-2-3-DQ-2 for a total of 14.7 points was reminiscent of Jeff Lenhart's dominance at the previous Hemisphere championship when Marco Aurelio finished in fourth place. U. S. sailor Jeff Lenhart and crew Dave Ullman finished in a good solid second place, followed by Gasto Altmayer with Mario Texeira from Brazil. Fourth and fifth places were both taken by the Argentinians, Wilson Pereira and Danny Ujvary, and Julio Labandeira with Daniel Decaro as crew.

Marco arrived too late for the practice race and furthermore, the airlines had lost his sails. He had to borrow a suit of sails from his teammate. None of this seemed to bother him as he got into the boat and went out to win the first race. He had been sailing quite a bit this year since he sailed in the Olympics in 470. Marco is Brazil's national champion for the third year in a row. He has a second and a sixth in the two previous Western Hemispheres and a sixth in last year's Worlds.

The championship was held in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada. The racing was held in the harbor, only a short distance from the club. Winds were good although a bit shifty at times, mostly in the middle range, but some were light and some heavy to provide a challenge. They were always heavy enough to eliminate the necessity of a make-up race — somewhat of a rarity in recent years.

Northern Yacht Club was host for the championship and did a wonderful job. They ran the Maritime Championship and the Canadian Nationals immediately prior to the Western Hemispheres and so had a chance to polish up their procedures. No doubt it was a strain on all those doing the many tasks necessary to put on a regatta, but it did not show. The members of the club were a delightful group, always kidding, but everpresent to give a friendly greeting and a helping hand when needed.

Twenty contestants from ten nations participated in the racing. This was the second highest number in the history of the championship. The boats were identical, all new and from the same builder. Several took on water in the inner hull and on occasion this produced disastrous results — if the boat capsized with a lot of water in the inner hull it was virtually impossible to right it.

The racing began on Monday morning in winds of 12-15 knots. Lenhart took an early lead with Paradededa close behind followed by Norm Towle of the U. S. This order was maintained for the first triangle. On the second windward leg Paradededa passed Lenhart and Horacio Garcia of Uruguay took over the third position. The run and final beat produced no changes. Pedro Garra of Uruguay finished fifth.

After the lunch break, the second race was started in 18-20 knots of wind. The leeward end was favored at the start, as well as the port side of the course, for the beat. Wilson Pereira of Argentina, Towle, John Dunkley from the Bahamas, and the

two Brazilians capitalized on this and rounded the windward mark in that order. The two planing reaches were just made for Bahamian Pierre Siegenthaler. He rounded the first mark in 14th place, passed 11 boats, and was in 3rd position at the downwind mark. Towle had taken over the lead from Pereira. Gasto Altmayer from Brazil and Julio Labandeira of Argentina managed to slip by Lenhart.

At the second windward mark Altmayer had the lead followed by Towle, Labandeira and Pereira. The wind started to drop on the downwind leg and was quite light at the finish. Paradededa, who had been in 6th place, showed his style on the last leg, and won the race. Labandeira moved to second, followed by Altmayer, Pereira and Towle. Lenhart dropped to 8th, for his worse race of the series.

The second day's racing started with 15 knots of wind. This time the starboard side was favored, and Ray Pittman from Bermuda, held on that side from the
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Pride of Brazil! The winner Marco on left and his crew Luis, right, are congratulated by teammate Gasto Altmayer who finished third. (Buzz Lamb photo)

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start, rounding in the lead followed by Paradedda, Lenhart, and Jim Belford from Canada.

Siegenthaler again showed his superb reaching talent, going from 12th place to 3rd at the downwind mark; Lenhart was in the lead, with Belford second. Siegenthaler's performance caused one contestant to remark that it was so dazzling he practically quit racing to watch him.

The wind had picked up to 20 knots for the second beat. At the mark, Lenhart was still leading, and Altmayer was in second. Belford had dropped to 4th, and Paradedda was 5th.

The wind continued to build to 23-24 knots for the final beat. Lenhart was not to be denied, and won the race. Paradedda had moved up to second, and Siegenthaler hanging on to 3rd. Towle took 4th, moving up from 15th at the 1st mark.

During the lunch break the wind went to over 30 knots, delaying the start until late in the afternoon. With a very cool 15 knot wind, the competitors favored the port side of the course. This proved correct, as the wind clocked during the beat. Pereira led at the mark, followed by Paradedda, Towle and Altmayer. The wind continued to drop to about 10-12 knots, but the first four positions did not change during the rest of the race. Siegenthaler finished 5th, and Lenhart took 6th.

Wednesday's race was in 12-15 knot winds. Again the port side was favored for the first leg. Pereira got a good start at the pin, and rounded first, followed by Lenhart and Paradedda. At the 2nd windward mark Paradedda had taken over the lead, followed by Pereira and Lenhart. On the last leg, Pereira, the eventual winner, held to the right side of the course, and Lenhart to the left. Paradedda apparently couldn't decide which one to cover, so went up the middle, and lost both of them, dropping to third.

There was no race in the afternoon, as all were guests of the Royal Cape Breton Yacht Club, for a delightful party. The scoring at that point put Paradedda in a commanding lead with Lenhart in second. Third place was still up for grabs with 4 or 5 competitors in contention.

The sixth race was the lightest of the series with winds 6-8 knots, increasing slightly during the race. Paradedda was



Second place winners Jeff Lenhart and Dave Ullman. (Lamb photo)

over the line early and led the whole race but was disqualified. Lenhart took the first followed by Labandeira and Siegenthaler. In the confusion of trying to recall Paradedda, Altmayer returned to the line although he was not over. He demonstrated some great sailing catching up from last to finish 10th. He filed a protest which was sustained, and he was awarded points for the average of his previous races.

At this point Lenhart could have won the championship if he could either control Paradedda and drive him down to at least 15th place or win with Marco in

4th. However, in the 12-15 knot wind, Paradedda got around the 1st mark in the lead with Lenhart in 9th place.

The wind had shifted 30-40 degrees and the race committee changed the windward mark, but the port tack was still favored. Apparently, none of the leaders figured it out, and lost much ground. Paradedda's tremendous lead disappeared, and he rounded the 2nd windward mark in 4th. Altmayer went from 5th to 1st. Pittman was the only one who really capitalized on the shift, moving from last place at the downwind mark to 6th at the windward mark.

Altmayer took the finish and assured himself of the overall third. Paradedda worked back up to second, and Lenhart finished sixth.

The races were all well run under the capable hands of Steve Astephen who was also regatta chairman. Only three protests were filed with none against competitors. As Flavio Caiuby said, "This means you have good sailors." As it turned out, whether any of the protests were upheld or not made no difference in the final order of finishes.

The Northern Yacht Club did an excellent job of entertaining. The flag raising and opening ceremony was particularly impressive replete with Sylvia McGuire, Miss Canada, and her escort of Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The local cadet band, complete with bagpipes, provided music and each delegation was presented with a bottle of champagne. Several dinners were interspersed throughout the week, and the festivities were ended with a trophy banquet. Everyone had a delightful time throughout the week — three cheers for the Canadians.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE CHAMPIONSHIP

Skipper/Crew	Country	Races	Points	Finish
Marco Paradedda/Luis Pejemove	Brazil	1-1-2-2-3-dq-2	14.7	1
Jeff Lenhart/Dave Ullman	U.S.	2-8-1-6-2-1-6	29.4	2
Gastao Altmayer/Mario Texeira	Brazil	7-3-5-4-5-PA*-1	43	3
Wilson Pereira/Danny Ujvary	Argentina	14-4-nf-1-1-12-3	51.7	4
Julio Labandeira/Daniel Decaro	Argentina	6-2-7-nf-9-2-5	55.7	5
Norman Towle/David Lence	U.S.	4-5-4-3-7-8-8	58.7	6
Pierre Seigenthaler/D. Martinborough	Bahamas	10-9-3-5-6-3-12	64.1	7
Horacio Garcia/Felix Leborne	Uruguay	3-10-14-16-8-7-4	76.7	8
Pedro Garra/Ricardo Mignone	Uruguay	5-14-12-nf-11-5-7	88	9
Wayne Soares/Michael Sinclair	Bermuda	8-16-9-8-13-4-13	89	10
Fred Thurston/Steve Callison	U.S.	nf-7-11-9-4-17-15	97	11
Andres Elgueta/Fernando Elgueta	Chile	9-15-15-7-12-9-20	103	12
John Dunkley/Jimmy Lowe	Bahamas	19-6-6-14-10-18-14	103.4	13
Yoshihiro Nishimura/Shinichi Asano	Japan	12-13-17-18-16-6-10	109	14
Ray Pittman/B. Weight	Bermuda	15-17-10-11-15-15-9	111	15
Jim Belford/Phyllis Belford	Canada	17-1-2-8-12-14-16-17	115	16
Dirk Kneulman/John Haire	Canada	16-1-1-13-13-17-11-16	116	17
Jaime Fernandez/Antonio Gonzalez	Chile	13-18-16-10-20-13-18	124	18
Michiteru Nakayama/Minoru Ohta	Japan	11-19-18-15-18-14-19	131	19
Lorenzo Depascale/Alex Winstanley	Ecuador	18-nf-19-17-19-19-11	139	20

* Points awarded 9.3