

1996 Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship

Larchmont, New York

September 29-October 4, 1996

If the results of the recent Western Hemisphere Championship are any indication of how the Snipe Class is doing, I'd say we're just fine. Competitors included veterans of previous Junior Snipe Worlds; Mauricio Santa Cruz, new WH&O champion, finished 3rd in the 1992 Jr. Worlds; 2nd place finisher Federico Calabrese, the 1994 Jr. World Champion; 3rd place finisher Javier & Nicolas Ocariz, 2nd place finishers at the Jr. World Championship in Spain the previous month. Other competitors who have participated in the Jr. Worlds included Luis Soubie, Steve Burke and Nicolas Granucci. On the other end of the spectrum, Peter Christie of the Bahamas, who is in his late 60's, sailed and finished all races, even after a capsize. Peter has been competing for over 50 years in Snipes. And still, the rest of the fleet can chalk up probably a minimum average of 10 years. We can truly say the Snipe is One Boat for All.

The competition among these veterans was not easy. The first day of competition showed light winds and one race. Santa Cruz with crew Eduardo Neves posted the first bullet



photo above: Champion Mauricio Santa Cruz and Eduardo Neves are lifted by fellow Brazilian teammates to help celebrate.

with an impressive win, followed by the junior team of the Ocariz brothers. Calabrese/Lozano finished third and Iwase/Kamiya and Takamura/Takeshita of Japan rounded out the top five. As with the previous championships this summer, it would have been better to have held 2 races the first day, but the deed of gift prohibited this with charter boats. The next day was again light, and two races were held with Doug Hart and Steve Stewart clinching the second race and the Ocariz brothers the third.

Alexandre Paradoda and Flavio Fernandes started off the regatta on the wrong foot, breaking their pinnle the first race and receiving a Rule 54 penalty which resulted in a Do Not Drop. Looking at their finishes the rest of the series, they could have been serious contenders for the title.

The third day of competition began with overcast skies that turned to rain by the second race. Spectators huddled for cover, with the competitors exposed to the elements. Three races were squeezed in under good wind despite the rain. Wind was prevalent, and the Race Committee could follow the wind shifts setting the marks accordingly. photo left: Peter Christie and grandson Dwayne Waller of the Bahamas during the heavy air day.

ingly. Hiroshi Maeda/Takayuki Goto of Japan won the fourth race with a nice lead, never challenged. Santa Cruz/Neves produced the same results in the fifth race and Hart/Stewart a commanding lead in the 6th for the win. The scores were tight going into the final race the last day which proved to be a crazy race. Overnight, the front had passed through and left cold winds. The sailors were out on the course with winds pushing the Snipe limit. Fortunately, the race began in heavy breezes under the Olympic course flag. By the weather mark, the wind was pushing 25 knots, and the reaches were a photographers dream! Slowly, the wind began to taper off, but came back up for the next beat. On the final run to the bottom mark, the mark set boat called a 2 knot reading over the radio. Spectators could watch the chess game being played on the water with skippers standing in their boats looking for any puff of breeze. Hart/Stewart, Maeda/Goto, the Lewecks, Santa Cruz/Neves and Fernando Kessler/Eduardo Rocha had remained in the top 5 the entire race despite the wild wind. Rounding the leeward mark, Hart covered Santa Cruz to the left, and Lewecks, Maeda and Kessler went up the middle looking for breeze. It was anyone's gamble, but in the end, the Lewecks were able to find and stay in the breeze playing the shifts among Maeda and Kessler for the win. Santa Cruz was able to squeak out a 9th while Hart/Stewart had to settle for a 19th. Jack Franco and Mike Sturman were able to capture 3rd overall by their consistency, their drop race being the only one out of the top 10. Jimmie Lowe and Gavin McKinney from the Bahamas struggled in the light stuff only to come on strong at the end with a 4-3-2-15 launching them into 6th.

Larchmont Yacht Club, a beautiful buck-



photo left: Peter Christie and grandson Dwayne Waller of the Bahamas during the heavy air day.

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Results

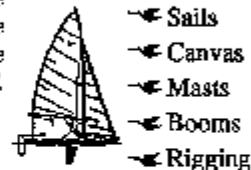
Skipper/Crew	Country	Sail #	Finishes	Total
1. Mauricio Santa Cruz/Eduardo Neves	Brazil	27390	1-3-4-8-1-5-(9)	21.5
2. Federico Calabrese/Edgardo Lozano	Argentina	28701	3-4-(12)-5-4-10-6	32
3. Jack Franco/Mike Sturman	USA	28702	6-6-2-3-(17)-8-7	34
4. Doug Haru/Steve Stewart	USA	28687	6-1-1-5-6-6-1-(19)	34.5
5. Javier/Nicolas Ocariz	Argentina	28647	2-2-1-10-10 (11)-10	34.75
6. Jimmie Lowe/Gavin McKinney	Bahamas	28811	(17)-16-11-4-3-2-15	51
7. Alexandre Paradede/Flavio Fernandes	Brazil	28653	(dnf)-dnf-3-9-2-3-5	51
8. Craig/Lisa Lewcock	USA	28467	7-5-5-(18)-18 16 1	51.75
9. Shigeo Takamura/Koji Takeshita	Japan	28874	5-10-13-(14)-9-4-12	53
10. Will Graves/Lisa Griffith	USA	29044	14-(17)-10-12-8-7-8	59
11. Fernando Kessler/Eduardo Rocha	Brazil	27535	(18)-8-18-15 7 13 3	64
12. Luis Soubie/Pablo Agrest	Argentina	12103	15-14-8-(16)-12-15-4	68
13. Hiroshi Maeda/Takayuki Goto	Japan	28928	11-(ret)-14-1-22-19-2	68.75
14. Bruno Amorim/Bruno Vivacqua	Brazil	26915	12-(20)-7-20-5-9-20	73
15. Joki Fukagawa/Masabu Morinaga	Japan	27717	10-9-16-(17)-11-12-17	75
16. Steve Burke/Carol Newman	USA	24807	9-13-9-(21)-14-14-14	75
17. Takamitsu Iwase/Yoshifusa Kamiya	Japan	28877	4-12-17-11-(19)-17-16	77
18. Noriaki Sugitani/Hiroyuki Shimada	Japan	26207	13-13-6-13-16-20-(21)	81
19. Matias Pereira/José Spina	Argentina	28211	ret-11-19-7-13-6-(23)	82
20. Nicolas Granucci/Ezequiel Fernandez	Argentina	28646	19-(23)-20-2-15-22-11	89
21. Christopher Schewe/Sebastian Kana	Uruguay	21597	16-7-(23)-19-20-18-13	93
22. Peter Christie/Dwayne Wallas	Bahamas	28693	21-22-(25)-24-21-24-18	130
23. Victor Vicos/Horacio Camargo	Brazil	28649	23-18-22-23-23-(dnf)-22	131
24. Christopher/Donald Hains	Canada	16182	20-21-(24)-22-21-21-24	132
25. Lori Lowe/Jerry Thompson	Bahamas	25235	22-19-21-25-(dnf)-dnf-dnf	139
26. David Whyman/Alex Nelson	Canada	24806	24-24-(26)-dnf-25-23-25	147

drop to the WH & O Championship, provided the competitors with endless food, hot coffee and chocolate at the launch site after the races, and a Race Committee, headed by Charlie Ulmer, that set perfect courses. The International Judges weren't kept too busy hearing protests, but did call kinetic violations on a few competitors. The Club members housed most all competitors and dignitaries in their homes and boats. Regatta chairman Tom Ingram called on his local fleet members to help with the regatta, all done without a hitch. Of the 26 competitors, 14 of the boats sailing were chartered from east coast Snipe sailors, including the 3 of the top 5.



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