

## Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship

### Rosario, Argentina

The 2000 Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship attracted 30 teams from 7 countries to one of Argentina's toughest racing areas. Due to changing weather patterns, leaving the original lagoon venue too shallow for Snipe sailing, local officials collaborated and found a site on the Parana River. The Parana River runs from Buenos Aires to Paraguay, with potential current of 5 plus knots. It is a main thoroughfare for commerce in South America. The course area was off to the side with a measured current of 1 to 2.5 knots. This site proved to be truly challenging not only for the competitors, but the Race Management Team as well.

The challenge was to use the current to your benefit and stay consist-



ent! And consistency was the key in this fleet. As evident from the results, top finishes secured the leaders. Breakdowns and a bad race would tell the tale in the end. Here's how it played out....

The first day of sailing gave the sailors 20-25 knots of breeze. Bruno Bethlem/Dante Bianchi of Brazil led the first race closely followed by Roberto Paradedá/Ortega also of Brazil, but Bethlem/Bianchi broke a jib halyard and had to retire. Morita/Seraguchi of Japan, the Vasconcellos brothers (BRA), and Ocariz brothers (ARG) rounded out the top 5. With the screaming reaches there were lots of crashing and burning with 4 capsize at one reach mark! At the finish, Paradedá/Ortega won, followed by Morita/Seraguchi. Masias Porcya/Behrendt (ARG) sailed up into the top pack and

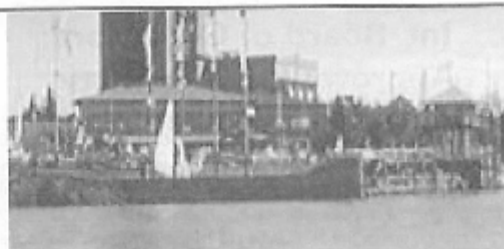
finished 3rd with fellow Argentinian Fumagallo/Cuerdo in #12733 (the boat sailed in the 1959 Worlds in Porto Alegre). The Vasconcellos brothers rounded out top 5 followed by brothers Ocariz and Roberto Fabini/Stefani (URU) in 7th. 6 of the 30 boats were unable to finish.

After spending a quick break near shore (out of the current), the racers returned to find the breeze blowing as hard as the first race, out of the South-east with the current running the opposite way. Conditions began to take their toll. At the start, Filter/Stout of the US flipped and were unable to right the boat to get across the line. Randy Lake/Piet Van Os (USA) had a gudgeon rip on the transom and the Japanese team of Takamura/Maruyama broke a rudder. Pablo Defazio/Diego Ronco (URU) broke their mast on the first reach in a huge puff.

Those who could make the start found two-time Jr. World Champ Alvaro Fonseca/Rodrigo Duarte (BRA) leading the first triangle and making huge gains on the reaches. Porcya/Behrendt and Paradedá/Ortega followed them. On the 2nd beat, Fonseca/Duarte flipped and by the time they were righted, they were in 6th. Bethlem/Bianchi and Pedro Garra/Felipe Garcia (URU) kept in the top group.

The scheduled second day of racing ended up being abandoned due to no wind at all, and the ever prevalent current making racing impossible for the day. Instead, Commodore Id Crook held an informal meeting of all the competitors on issues of the Snipe Class.

The first start of the second day was postponed, as half the fleet couldn't make the line fighting the current in lighter breeze. When the race did start, most the fleet were on port, crossing the current. At the top mark, US boats Filter/Stout and Lake/VanOs rounded 1,2 followed by Yoshioka/Ikebe of Japan,



Club de Vela Rosario. Photo: Diego Huddy

Vasconcellos brothers (Brazil) and Takamura/Maruyama. The leaders stayed low on the reach while the rest of the fleet went high trying to buck the current. This only extended the leaders lead. Places changed and at the finish, US boats Lake/Van Os and Filter/Stout crossed followed by Vasconcellos Brothers and Takamura/Maruyama. Fonseca/Duarte finished fifth, but received an OCS, giving Augie Diaz/Alex Stout of the US 5<sup>th</sup>.

The following race the wind dropped to 6-8 knots for the Olympic course. Filter/Stout & Bethlem/Bianchi were doing 720's at the start (separate incidences). At the weather mark, the Vasconcellos brothers rounded 1st followed by Noe brothers, Johnny MacCall/Pettinari (ARG), Fabini/Stefani (URU), Porcya/Behrendt (ARG). This time the leaders went high and Lake/VanOs, who rounded the weather mark 6th, stayed low and moved to 3rd. Again, positions changed and at the finish it was Noe/Noe ARG, Fonseca/Duarte BRA, Lake/VanOs USA, Gomez/Montanaro ARG and Fumagallo ARG.

Having lost a day in the schedule, the championship was decided ON the final day with 3 races. Again, close racing among the top sailors with the fleet playing the shore on exaggerated reaches to stay out of the current. When to gybe and tackle the current was a crucial call. Going into the final race either the Vasconcellos brothers of Brazil, local favorite Fumagallo/Cuerdo of Argentina, or Randy Lake/Piet VanOs of the USA could win the Championship. At the weather leg, these three were 5-6-7, still too close to call.

The story here is the consistency of the Vasconcellos brothers who have been training hard and on the steady rise toward winning a major championship. They had no finish worse than 9<sup>th</sup>. As junior sailors, they competed in several Junior Worlds and sailed together in the Worlds in Santiago de la Ribera (Spain). They stayed consistent and cool, and the Championship became theirs. Then there is the story of Eduardo Fumagallo and Nicolas Cuervo in 12733. Yes, the boat was sailed in the 1959 Worlds in Porto Alegre, and the refurbishment is outlined on another page of this issue, but as we all know, it's the sailors that make the boat go. Editors note: Eduardo Fumagallo followed up his 2<sup>nd</sup> place WH & O finish by winning the Argentine Nationals a few weeks later. Eduardo is a fine sailor whose talents have finally been showcased to the World.

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### Results

	<i>Skipper/Crew</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Sail #</i>	<i>Finishes</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Federico/Felipe Vasconcellos	Brazil	29631	5-5-4-7-4-(9)-5	30
2.	Eduardo Fumagallo/Nicolas Cuervo	Argentina	12733	4-6-(15)-5-6-5-7	33
3.	Randy Lake/Piet Van Os	United States	28854	8-ymp-1-3-11-6-(16)	33.75
4.	Bruno Bethlem/Dante Bianchi	Brazil	29799	(dnf)-2-2-11-16-4-1	35.75
5.	Javier/Nicolas Ocariz	Argentina	28647	6-4-(14)-12-3-10-3	38
6.	Roberto Paradedda/Daniel Ortega	Brazil	29366	1-(dnf)-10-9-5-2-12	38.75
7.	Matias Perroya/Marcus Behrendt	Argentina	28211	3-1-13-8-13-3-(24)	40.75
8.	Alvaro Fonseca/Rodrigo Duarte	Brazil	29254	dnf-9-(oc)-2-1-1-6	44.5
9.	Yuzo Morita/Akira Setoguchi	Japan	29392	2-7-8-(19)-10-17-15	59
10.	Augie Diaz/Alex Stout	United States	28810	12-11-6-(20)-14-8-9	60
11.	Pedro Garra/Felipe Garcia	Uruguay	29251	9-3-20-13-12-(22)-4	61
12.	Johnny MacCall/Esteban Pettinari	Argentina	28644	23-8-11-6-(ret)-12-2	62
13.	Cristian/Alejandro Noe	Argentina	28643	(dnf)-13-7-1-2-19-25	66.75
14.	Henry Filter/Lorie Stout	United States	28702	14-(dnf)-3-17-18-7-17	76
15.	Ivan Pimentel/Rodrigo Lins	Brazil	29815	10-10-22-22-7-(ret)-8	79
16.	Koji Ida/Hiromu Yamasaki	Japan	29150	17-15-(pms)-15-15-14-10	86
17.	Roberto Fabini/Diego Stefani	Uruguay	28026	7-dnf-(25)-10-8-21-20	87
18.	Kenji Abe/Tsutomu Yoshida	Japan	29527	13-12-(9-(30))-17-15-11	87
19.	Shigeo Takamura/Satoru Maryuama	Japan	29391	16-ymp-5-16-(25)-16-23	89
20.	Lucas Gomez/Marcos Montanaro	Argentina	29230	20-dnf-16-4-(24)-23-14	98
21.	Takashi Yoshioka/Masafumi Ikehara	Japan	28794	11-16-12-25-21-13-(26)	98
22.	George/Stacey Szabo	United States	29672	21-14-17-14-(23)-18-19	103
23.	Pablo Defazio/Diego Ronco	Uruguay	28024	15-dnf-9-(24)-20-20-21	106
24.	Santiago Silveira/Gari	Uruguay	27785	(dnf)-dnf-21-18-26-19-11-13	108
25.	Michael Lenkeit/Lisa Griffith	United States	28686	19-17-21-23-(28)-24-27	131
26.	Diego Garcia/Martin Dovar	Uruguay	24639	dnf-(dnc)-26-18-22-26-18	136
27.	Lee Sackett/Michelle Grooko	United States	28575	22-18-(oc)-27-26-27-22	142
28.	Rafael/Gustavo Tamayo	Colombia	29454	24-20-23-21-(29)-28-28	144
29.	Daniel Elton/Herrera	Chile	28850	18-(dnc)-27-28-27-25-29	154
30.	Jose Isaza/Felipe Castillo	Colombia	29422	25-19-24-29-(dnc)-dnc-dnc	157