

Laser World



September 2009

Laser Radial Produces Record Entries in Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF Worlds



Dorico Brown at the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship 2009 © Dave Kneale/Volvo Ocean Race

Laser around the World

From Brazil to Japan

World 4.7
Youths

Light Winds in
Búzios

World Radial
Women

Exhilarating
Conditions in Japan

ISAF World
Cup

Penultimate
Leg in Kiel

European
Radials

Men, Women
& Youth

Victory for Martinetti & Kosir at World 4.7s, Brazil

The 8th World Laser 4.7 Youth Championship, in Armação dos Búzios, Brazil, had a frustrating start due to the lack of breeze. With the wind moving from south to east, reaching a maximum speed of just 6 knots, the fleet of more than 140 boats from 27 countries, launched around 11:30am and waited until 3:00pm for conditions to improve. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to the sailors and races were eventually postponed until 12.00pm the following day.

Day two appeared to be another day of waiting with weak and fickle winds. The starting gun eventually sounded after the sailors had spent more than 3 hours afloat waiting for the breeze to pick up. At 3.30pm the racing started after the south/south east wind had reached a steady 8 knots.

"Today we held a race because we were very insistent. I always worry about the return of competitors to the land, which cannot be done after sunset. We were lucky and the wind, which was swinging from the east to the south, fixed in the southeast and let the three groups finally run a good race", said Nelson Horn Ilha, the Principal Race Officer.

A strong southerly current and rising tides meant that the race was very difficult and demanded the attention of the young skippers. Divided into three groups (boys in yellow and blue, and girls in red), the fleets alternated between inner and outer loop courses. At the end of the day, Ben Robinson (GBR) was victorious in the yellow fleet, followed by Eduardo Viteri (ECU) in second and Toni Banovac (CRO) in third.

Juan Ignacio Biava (ARG) led the blue fleet, followed by Simon Laganis (SLO) and David Grant (GBR) in second and third respectively.

In the girls' fleet, Urska Kosir took the bullet after a great sailing performance, followed by Marina Mandic (CRO) and Nazli Hilal Karadeli (TUR) in second and third.

Búzios awoke to perfect sailing conditions on day three. With a 10-12 knot wind from the east, three races were held during the five hours the sailors had on the water. Jonathan Martinetti (ECU) flew into the lead winning all three races in his fleet and discarding his 23rd position from the day before, while Juraj Divjakinja (CRO) came second after scoring a third and two second places during the day.

Kosir continued to lead the girls' fleet after another impressive performance. She won two races and discarded her second place, which she scored in the third race. Karadeli ended the day in second place, while Kim Pletikos (SLO) came in third.

Competitors had to deal with unstable sailing conditions on day four, with fickle and weak easterly winds of 7-14 knots.

Hermann Tomasgaard (NOR) and Martinetti had a fierce battle for the top of the leaderboard. Martinetti won the second race of the day, but his 15th place in the first race meant he was denied the top spot and pushed into second by Tomasgaard. With just one point between these two sailors, the final two days of racing were predicted to be exciting.

"This winter here is fantastic. I usually spend the winter in -4 degrees Celsius", said Tomasgaard, the new leader of the tournament.

Among the girls, the highlight was Tomoyo Wakabayashi (JPN) who won both races and ended the day in third overall with 26 points. Pletikos was just one point behind her in second, while Kosir maintained her overall lead by 15 points, despite a 4th and a 6th (discarded).

"I feel good sailing here, the weather is very good. I intend to keep the same strategy until the end of the competition", said Kosir.

The penultimate day of racing was rainy with weak winds, but anticipation was high with a virtual champion among the girls and a favourite among the boys.

Kosir kept the overall lead in the

girls' fleet. Despite coming 11th in the only race of the day and weaker winds in the latter stages of the event, her impressive performance at the beginning of the championship saw her end the day on an advantage of 12 points above second placed Wakabayashi. Patricia Leveque (ESP) won the day's race, seeing her move to fifth place, 3 points behind fourth-placed Pletikos.

Racing in the boys' fleet was intense, with a strong performance from championship star Martinetti. Despite Tono Alcazar winning the race, Martinetti was always in the leading pack and he came in second. His impressive sailing throughout the championship saw him end the day at the top of the leaderboard with just 21 points. His direct rival Tomasgaard

came ninth, meaning he ended the day in second place on 27 points, while Divjakinja was third on the leaderboard with 33 points. With a forecast of east winds of up to 12 knots the fight promised to be intense until the end.

The World Laser 4.7 Championship came to an end with no duels on the final day. After being on the water for over 4 hours under a lot of rainwater and fickle winds of between 2 and 6 knots, the athletes, judges and technicians returned to the club, frustrated but happy with the ending of another great sailing event.

"We tried to have at least one race today. We even could set the course in the 200° heading, but the wind dropped a lot and when we were 20 minutes close to the time limit of 3pm we called it off because it was very cold and uncomfortable for everybody. In the end we did 7 good races from the 12 scheduled and had a high-level competition that made everyone happy", said the Principal Race Officer Nelson Horn Ilha.

However, for two sailors the day was perfect. The leaders of yesterday, Martinetti and Kosir, celebrated when the Race Committee cancelled the races for the day and brought the world title dream closer to them.

"I used to sail in weak winds in Salinas. With 8 to 10 knots, I feel at home here in Búzios and the conditions were good for me", said the young champion with modesty. His parents, however, explained the secret of success: "He always was watching his older brother sailing. As the difference in age between them is great, as soon as he could go to water, Jonathan began to sail almost every time. It is common to see him practicing alone in the waters of Salinas", they said.

Kosir intensely celebrated her victory, "I am proud to have reached it, I still cannot believe that I won so well, with so many points of advantage. This is the first time I'm sailing in the Americas and to go home with the world title is very, very good", Urska said.

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www.laserinternational.org

"I feel at home here in Búzios and the conditions were good for me"



Multala Wins Radial Women's Title in Japan

The light winds which welcomed the start of the World Laser Radial Women's Championship eventually built up and two races were completed in light and shifty NNE winds on the first day. The waves were bigger than the wind, making the conditions challenging, but some sailors worked out the shifts and gusts early on in the race. Veronika Fenclova (CZE) followed the pattern of the wind and led the fleet and Anna Tunnicliffe (USA) followed her in second place, showing her speed through the waves. Lucia Reyes (ESP) finished fourth, but there was a protest by Sarah Steyaert (FRA) for an incident at the start. Reyes was subsequently disqualified and dropped from fourth to 49th. Yukiyo Saiki (JPN) showed her light wind skill and raced well to manage ninth overall.

However, the second day of racing was a tough one on the water for the sailors. After being kept ashore because of concerns about thunder storms, a clearance was given to head to the water and racing started at 12:05 in 11 to 12 knots. Like the previous day, a shift to the right caused a postponement for the blue fleet and a course change to straighten the outer loop for the yellow fleet. Race 3 for the yellow fleet provided the only OCS of the day. Conditions became very tricky for the sailors in race 3 as the sea built to a two metre swell and the breeze dropped to only 6-7 knots, making it very difficult to catch the enticing waves. The race committee eventually shortened the course, making the sailors happy to see the end of a long race.

In contrast race 4 started in the lighter breeze that increased steadily during the race with 20 knot gusts by the end. This gave exciting conditions for the sailors with big gains to be made for those who knew how to catch the waves.

Lijia Xu (CHN) was one to watch with a second and first to take the lead from Tunnicliffe, who scored a third and a fifth. With one drop both were on 9 points. Sari Multala (FIN) jumped up the leaderboard with a first and third.

Karatsu Bay turned on superb sailing conditions for day 3 of the championship. Two races were sailed for each fleet in 12-15 knots and a constant NNE breeze. There were enough waves and swell for the better sailors to show their skill and stamina, with the challenging and exciting conditions allowing competitors to surf down the waves at great speed. The race management team was pleased to have the first finisher in all races within four minutes of the target time of one hour and to be on schedule with a complete qualifying series.

The sailors were too keen in the first start of the yellow fleet and a general recall was called. It was then a clear start under a black flag. Multala used the waves to good effect to take the lead on the last reach to finish first. With a second in race 6, she moved into second place on the leaderboard. Xu displayed her skill in these conditions to lead the competition after a fifth in race 5 and a very convincing win in race 6.

Sophie de Turckheim (FRA) was dominant in the blue fleet with two bullets bringing her to fourth place overall. Tunnicliffe dropped to third overall, with a third and sixth, while Charlotte Dobson (GBR) continued to sail very consistently, moving into 8th position just behind Steyaert and Fenclova. Alberte Lindberg (DEN) sailed consistently and was in fifth position on the leaderboard.

Sailors awoke to another great day of sailing for the first day of the Gold and Silver fleet racing. It was a warm and cloudy day with consistent 12-15 knots NNE winds and a half metre chop.

The course moved slightly west to counter the apparent right hand advantage. With some port end bias, the fleet was more spread down the line at start time and all starts were clear.

In the first race of the gold fleet, race 7, Evi van Acker (BEL) rounded mark 1 first, ahead of Annalise Murphy (IRL). Multala came from behind with some good downwind sailing to finish in first place ahead of Tunnicliffe in second, van Acker third and Murphy in fourth. Overnight leader Xu did not have a good race but came second in race 8 and ended the day in 4th place overall. Bouwmeester used the conditions well to lead race 8 from start to finish. At the end of the day, Multala headed the leaderboard with 24 points, followed by Tunnicliffe, just one point behind on 25 points and de Turckheim in third on 34 points.

In the silver fleet, Ashley Stoddart (AUS) had a very convincing win in race 7, leading from start to finish, while Wakako Tabata (JPN) sailed well to finish second. Stoddart's 4th place in race 8 gave her the lead in the silver fleet on a count back from Laura Maers (BEL). Race 8 was won by Claire Dennis (USA), who improved from 5th at the first mark with Fanny Le Sausse (FRA) in second.

The penultimate day saw more fabulous sailing conditions with NNE winds of 12-16 knots. There were more oscillations and good gains were made on the downwind legs. Racing was tense with the sailors pushing the start line to cause a general recall for each fleet in race 10 and a subsequent black flag for the next attempt.

With two drops allowed, Multala maintained her lead in the gold fleet. She recovered from 6th around mark 1 in race 10 to win the race. Despite a boat to boat protest in race 10, which resulted in a disqualification for Xu, her win in race 9 combined with the second drop saw her finish in third place. Tunnicliffe climbed back to second, 9 points behind the leader, with de Turckheim in fourth after a BFD in race 10. Murphy impressed with a second and fourth to see her move up to tenth on the leaderboard.

In the silver fleet, Stoddart maintained her lead with a good win in race 9 and a consistent third in race 10. Dennis finished the day one point behind, while Jennifer Spalding (CAN) was a further 11 points behind in third place. Joanne Prokop (CAN) took the bullet, while Rosie Chapman's (GBR) good result of second in race 10 was spoilt by an attempted port start at the pin end that resulted in an

OCS.

The final day of racing saw tough but exhilarating sailing conditions with 15 to 18 knot NNE winds, choppy seas and a swell that increased during the day.

Multala kept a calm head and worked her way from third at the first mark into first place to win race 11 and the championship. She impressed with her skill on reaches and downwind legs to



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secure five wins and nine top ten placings over the six days of racing.

A good battle for second took place between de Turckheim and Tunnicliffe, with the two skippers fighting each other right down to the last race. De Turckheim bounced back from the disappointment of a BFD in race 10 to sail well and gain a second and fifth, clinching second place overall. Tunnicliffe sailed a very consistent regatta with only one placing outside the top ten until a fifteenth place in race 11. It was another good day for Bouwmeester with a third and a fifth, which saw her move to fourth position overall.

In the silver fleet, Stoddart showed her dominance with two bullets today to win overall. As the second youngest competitor she is going to be a sailor to watch for the future. Dennis maintained her second placing from Spalding in third and local sailor Tabata in fourth.

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Challenging and exciting conditions allowed competitors to surf down the waves

Light Winds Cause Delays for Radial Youth



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Alexios Katsios (GRE), Winner in the Boys Fleet

The European Laser Radial Youth Championship at Charlottenlund in Denmark started with sailors enjoying sunny conditions and winds of up to 6 knots. Both the boys' and girls' fleets completed two races on day one. Shahar Jacob (ISR), 2008 World Champion in the Laser 4.7 class, had a very good start to the regatta, with a 1st and 4th place in his fleet, placing him at the top of the leader board. Yan Chekh (RUS) was in second place after he had a 2nd and 3rd, while Stefano Mazzafero (BRA) finished third after he followed his 6th place finish with a 1st place in race two.

The girls' fleet saw very mixed results after two completed races on day one. Viktorija Andriulyte (LTU) won the first race, followed by Souffa Ben-horin (ISR) in second and Saima Plerpaite (LTU) in third. In the second race, however, Andriulyte fell back to finish in 41st place, which saw her shooting from 1st to 15th place on the leader board. Kamila Szymanska (POL) claimed the second race win which, after a 29th place in the first place, put her in 9th place overall. Szymanska was followed

The event got off to a flying start with sailors enjoying sunny conditions & winds of up to 6 knots

by Svenja Stein (GER), with Anna Brzozowska (POL) in third place. At the end of day one, Michon Pernelle (FRA) was in first place after a 8th and 5th race finish. Anna Pohlak (POL) found herself second after coming 7th and 11th, while Baude Bérénice (FRA) was in third place.

Day two was a long hot day in Charlottenlund and, despite hoping the wind would pick up, racing had to be abandoned. There was still no wind, and therefore no racing, on day three, while the very light winds only allowed one race to be completed in the boys' fleet on day four.

Finally, steady but light winds on day five meant that the remaining fleets were able to complete their catch-up races. In the boys' fleet, Chekh started well again and scored a 2nd and 3rd place. He discarded his 41st position in the fifth race and topped the leader board with 10 points. Filip Kobielski (POL) had a fantastic day, scoring a second place in race 3 and two bullets in race 4 and 5, putting him in second place with 14 points. On equal points, Jacob moved from the top of the leader board into third position overall.

In the girls' fleet, US sailors dominated the top ranks. Emily Billing climbed to the top of the leader board after claiming the race win in race 5 and discarding her 30th place from the previous race. Claire Dennis took second place overall after coming 3rd in the last race of the day. Annina Takala (FIN) had a very good day and, with 2nd, 4th and 4th place finishes, found herself third overall.

Shifting winds, thunder and protest over the results from the previous day delayed the take off from the harbour on day six. It wasn't until 17:00 that the first dinghy had left the harbour and, in the end all fleets completed 1 race.

The boys were assigned to final-series fleets on the basis of their qualifying-series scores. Alexios Katsios (GRE) claimed the race win, followed by Toma Visc (CRO) in second place and Christiano Vitulano (ITA) in third place. In the girls' fleet, Stein came first, with Takala second and Sarah Butterfield (GBR) in third.

The final day saw one race bring the European Laser Radial Youth Championship 2009 to an end. In the boys' fleet, Visc claimed the race win and his fantastic performance in the latter half of the championship earned him 3rd place overall. Second place overall went to Shahar Jacob, who ended the regatta on 38 points. With a 13-point lead over the rest of the fleet, Katsios was crowned this year's European Laser Radial Youth Boys Champion.

In the girls' fleet, Takala finished the final race in 2nd place, giving her a 10-point lead over the rest of the fleet and claiming the championship with 50 points. Joining her on the podium were Erika Reineke (USA), second on 60 points and Dennis third on 86 points.



© Per Heegaard
Annina Takala (FIN), Winner in the Girls Fleet

Intense Racing Conditions for Radial Men

The European Laser Radial Men's racing started at midday on 11th July and, with the men separated into two fleets, racing was intense and exciting on day one.

Michal Gryglewski (POL) took the lead early on in the blue fleet but was pushed into second place by fellow countryman Wojciech Zemke, who worked his way forward to claim the first race win. Jon Emmett (GBR) had a good race and came in third with 3 points. In the red fleet, Michail Aristeidis (GRE) claimed the race win, closely followed by Ben Koppelaar (NED) in second and Teemu Rentanen (FIN) in third place. The second race of the day saw both Magnus Kaeldso (DEN) and Vitkor Teply (CZE) claim the race win in their respective fleets. However, it wasn't enough to stop Aristeidis from reaching the top of the leaderboard with 3 points after a second place in race two. Zemke and Gryglewski were in second and third place, respectively, both sailors on 4 points.

Racing was intense and exciting on day one

Day two started with light winds of 3-5 metres per second blowing from the south south west, which caused racing to be postponed until the breeze picked up. Racing finally began in the early afternoon. The morning's delays did not affect Zemke, who delivered another magnificent performance, scoring 2 bullets in the blue fleet. Aristeidis also had a good day, scoring two second places in the red fleet. However it wasn't enough to stop Zemke, whose race wins were enough to push Aristeidis to number 2 on the overall leaderboard.

Emmett also continued to do well winning the first race in the red fleet moving him up

the leaderboard to 4th place with 8 points, just ahead of Koppelaar also on 8 points. Gryglewski maintained his 3rd place overall after scoring a 2nd and 3rd place, while Nik Pletikos (SLO) moved to 6th place thanks to his win in the second race.

The third day of the championship was cloudy with a 5 m/s south westerly wind. Zemke continued strong and took the first race win in the red fleet. Even with a (discarded) 6th place finish in the second race, he remained top of the overall leaderboard on an impressive 7 points. Hot on his tail was Emmett who had a fantastic day. His 2nd and 1st place finishes moved him up into third place overall on 11 points. Another strong contender in the red fleet was Ivan Zotov (RUS), who scored two third place finishes and leapt from 29th to 13th place overall. Antoine Coadou (FRA) scored second place in the second race and moved up the leaderboard from 13th to 11th place.

In the blue fleet, Gryglewski delivered another strong performance with a 1st and 2nd place and so moved up into second place overall on 9 points. The second race win was taken by fellow Polish sailor Filip Kobielski.

Day four was a day of unscheduled rest as, despite long hours of waiting and hoping, the wind did not pick up and all racing was cancelled.

A light breeze and a cloudy sky welcomed the start of the Finals Series on day five. Racing was started but had to be abandoned due to the light winds and strong currents. Race officials

moved the course closer to the shore and racing finally got underway in the afternoon.

Zemke further extended his lead with yet another great performance, winning both races back to back. With only 9 points, he comfortably sat at the top of the leaderboard at the end of the day, 11 points ahead of the remaining fleet. Aristeidis also had a great day scoring a 2nd and a 3rd place, which pushed him from fourth into second place overall with 20 points. Despite a DNS and a 15th place, Gryglewski ended the day in third place with 27 points.

Zemke had two disappointing races on the last day. With a 20th and a 25th place, he had to concede the championship title to Aristeidis, who with a 4th place and DNF score was able to take the title. Zemke still finished in a very respectable second place overall with 29 points, five points behind Aristeidis. Third place went to Koppelaar who, after a 3rd and 10th place on the last day, finished with 33 points.



© Per Heegaard
Michail Aristeidis (GRE), Winner of European Radial Men

Radial Women Tracked by Satellite



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The excitement of this year's European Laser Radial Women's Championship was closely watched with a satellite tracking device monitoring the sailors' every movement. TracTrac provided GPS-based live tracking of every race, putting championship spectators at the heart of the action – tracking geographical position, speed and mileage and providing performance indicators throughout the event.

Racing began on Saturday 11th July, with the women split into two fleets. The yellow fleet had a tricky start with the whole fleet being recalled. However, once racing was underway, last year's European Radial champion Sari Multala (FIN) was second around the first mark after Katarzyna Derberny (POL), but was able to push ahead of her to take the bullet. Sarah Steyaert (FRA) also overtook Derberny to finish in second place. Steyaert continued to do well, winning the second race, while Alicia Cebrian (ESP) and Sara Corma (POR) came in second and third. After the first day, Steyaert sat at the top of the leaderboard with 3 points, followed by Multala and Charlotte Dobson (GBR), both on 5 points.

In the green fleet, Cathrine Gjerpen (NOR) was first around the first mark and kept the lead to claim the first race win. She was followed by Lucia Reyes (ESP) and Dobson. In the second race, Evi van Acker (BEL) came first, followed by Dobson in second place and Marit Bouwmeester (NED) in third.

Racing on day two was delayed due to light winds, with races finally starting in the early afternoon. The fleets were reassigned and Tina Mihelic (CRO) led the green fleet early on to claim the first race of the day. Josefin Olsson (SWE) initially sat behind Tuula Tenkannen (FIN) but was able to push ahead to finish the race in second place followed by Paige Railey (USA) in third. The leaderboard line-up changed after the second race. Sophie de Turckheim (FRA) dominated the fleet, finishing the day with a race win and an overall score of 31 points, while Multala finished second.

In the yellow fleet, Steyaert (FRA) delivered another great performance, finishing the race ahead of Sara Winther (NZL) and Ewa Makowska (POL). Lucia Reyes (ESP) was first around the first windward mark in the second race, but was subsequently overtaken and pushed into second place by Bouwmeester, who claimed the race win.

At the end of the second day, Steyaert remained in first place overall with only 4 points, followed by Multala in second on 7

points and Lucia Reyes, on 8 points, in third. It was looking tight at the top of the leaderboard, Bouwmeester and Dobson were in 4th and 5th, sharing a 9 point score, with Railey in 6th place just one point below. With so few points between each of the competitors, the fight for the top spot was predicted to be tough.

The third day of the championship was cloudy with a 5 m/s south westerly wind and proved to be a day of mixed results. Mihelic dominated the first race in the green fleet and managed to stay ahead of the rest to finish in first place. Railey rounded the first mark in fifth but managed to push past her competitors to slip into second place, ahead of 2007 ISAF Worlds winner Tatiana Drozdovskaya (BLR). In the second race, Mihelic was third around the first windward mark, but then dropped back to finish in 9th place, ahead of Railey in 10th place. The race win went to Francesca Clapcich (ITA), followed by Derberny and Maiken Schütt (DEN) who finished in second and third, respectively.

In the yellow fleet, Fatima Reyes (ESP) had a fantastic day, winning the first race and scoring a 3rd place in the second race. Gabrielle King (AUS) followed her and finished in second place and Catherine Gjergpen (NOR) came in third. Makowska was able to improve on her 7th place in the first race by winning the second race, ahead of de

Turckheim.

At the end of the day, the leaderboard had changed but, as predicted, things were still close at the top. Railey moved from 6th place to 1st with 18 points, while previous leader Steyaert was pushed down into second place on 19 points, followed by Dobson, also on 19 points.

The fourth day was one of frustration. After hours of waiting for the wind to arrive, racing was eventually cancelled.

Day five dawned and the Finals Series started but racing soon had to be abandoned due the dangerous mix of light winds and strong currents. The course was moved closer to the shore by race officials and racing finally got underway in the afternoon. Mihelic won the first race and was followed by Winther in second and Gjerpen in third.

In the second race of the day, Alberte Lindberg (DEN) led the fleet home ahead of van Acker and Railey. Railey remained at the top of the overall leaderboard on 31 points having discarded her 45th place from the first race. Mihelic's bullet was followed by a 9th place in the second race of the day meaning that, with a total of 48.5 points, she jumped from twelfth into second place overall, with Gjerpen in third on 55 points.

The final day of the European Laser Radial Women's Championship saw Steyaert claim the first race win, moving her up the leaderboard fast. Bouwmeester chased her into second place and Multala finished third.

After leading the fleet home in the final race of the championship, Railey was crowned the deserved winner of the European Trophy. Even her 20th place in the penultimate race

could not do any damage to her overall championship win, which was achieved with a 13 point gap from the rest of the fleet. Mihelic was able to hold on to her second place with 55 points overall after a 7th and 18th place. Third place in the European Trophy went to Steyaert who finished in 14th place in the last race and ended the championship with 58 points.

In the European Championship, which includes only European sailors, Mihelic was crowned the European Laser Radial Women's Champion, with Steyaert in second place and Lindberg in third.

For the first time this year, a prize was also awarded to the first sailor in the Under 21 category, which was claimed by Olsson, who was placed 9th overall.

Tracking of the races held between 12th and 16th July are available to view online at: <http://www.tracrac.com/?page=elr>

Full reports, results and pictures can be found at: www.laserinternational.org.

TracTrac provided GPS-based live tracking of every race, putting spectators at the heart of the action



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Radial Women's Champion Tina Mihelic (CRO)



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Bronze Medallist Alberte Lindberg (DEN)



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Under 21 Champion Josefin Olsson (SWE)

Record Entry at Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF Worlds



Keerati Bualong representing Thailand



Heidi Tenkanen representing Finland

The world's top young sailing talent gathered in Búzios, Brazil for start of racing at the 39th Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship. The event launched into action with almost 300 sailors taking part. Experience was the common denominator amongst the leading crews, with the top standings all dominated by teams who featured at the championship in Århus last year.

Weather-wise it was a challenging opening. Racing began with a mid-range northerly wind around 10-15 knots, but as the day progressed the breeze got lighter and much shifter.

The Boys' One Person Dinghy – Laser Radial event had a record entry this year, with over 50 nations represented in the fleet. This surge in popularity is because, for the first time, the Boys were sailing the Laser Radial rig, not the Laser Standard rig (as in previous years).

Last year, Pavlos Kontides (CYP) dominated the competition to become the first sailor to win the Laser title twice (to put that into

“I was sailing really fast, took good decisions and read the shifts well”

two left the remainder of the fleet all counting at least one high score already. Yan Chekh (RUS) and Valic Matej (SLO) were best of the rest and were tied on points in second and third respectively.

In the Girls' fleet, the shifting wind resulted in a late finish as the second races were all restarted. Mathilde De Kerangat (FRA) was the major beneficiary, as she was struggling in the second race before it was abandoned and then went on to win the restarted race two held in the lighter, shifter breeze. “I was sailing really fast, took good decisions and read the shifts well”, was her summary of an excellent opening day.

Heidi Tenkanen (FIN), like De Kerangat a top-10 finisher at last year's Youth Worlds, scored a big win in the opening race but dropped to 13th in race two to lie second overall. Another trio of experienced Youth Worlds campaigners, Bertold, Yin and Michelle Broekhuizen (NED) completed the top-five.

Day two saw winds gusting over 30 knots, which meant that the sailors never left the shore as racing was abandoned.

perspective both Ben Ainslie (GBR) and Russell Coutts (NZL) won one gold and one silver in this competition), but this year he fell outside the age range for the championship and the field again looked wide open.

In the Girls' Laser Radial event, the winner of the past two editions, Gabrielle King (AUS), also made her final Youth Worlds appearance in Århus last July. Isabella Bertold (CAN), Heidi Tenkanen (FIN) and Elizabeth Yin (SIN) all return this year, aiming to build on impressive finishes last time out in Denmark.

One of the stand out performers of day one was Sam Meech (NZL). After winning bronze last year, Meech set an early course for gold with two wins both secured by a huge margin. He established an impressive 11-point lead after the shifty conditions in race

Walter Boddener, Principal Race Officer, explained the situation. “Today's wind conditions clearly exceeded the limits for racing and it was simply too dangerous to send the sailors out. Tomorrow the forecast is for light and shifty conditions so we will aim to complete the two races scheduled. Following the lay day on Tuesday, the seabreeze should return and will hope to make up today's cancelled races in better conditions.”

Sailors from 60 nations returned to the Bay of Búzios on the morning of day three, eager for competition. With the lay day scheduled for the next day, competitors had to balance the chance to push as hard as possible with staying tactically aware in the very tricky light wind conditions.

In the Boys' fleet, Meech ran away with the championship, having established a 25-point lead after just four races. Despite his commanding lead, the Kiwi skipper said it was far from a perfect day. In the day's first race he looked to be on his way to a third consecutive bullet, but fell back to fourth as he got out of phase with the wind at the

“Great conditions for me out there today - it was just beautiful”

top mark. Jeronimo Cervantes (MEX) came through to take the race win, helping him up to fourth overall.

Francesco Marrai (ITA) won the day's second race, with Meech dropping to sixth after missing a shift on the final run. If raw speed was the key to his success on day one, day three's tricky light winds called for a different approach and Meech's consistency was what established his huge lead, being the only sailor in the fleet still only counting single-figure score.

“I've been quite conservative,” he explained. “Usually I'm the opposite, trying to take big fliers and that sort of stuff, but that's one of the things from last year I've really been working on.”

Behind Meech, Keerati Bualong (THA) was in second place with Valic Matej (SLO) in third.

In the Girls' fleet, there was a new leader with Yin feeling completely at home in the day's light and shifty winds. A third and second place finish propelled her into the top spot with a 12-point margin over day two's leader De Kerangat. Mayumi Roller (ISV) also had an impressive day. After two scores of 25 on day one, she came back strongly with a race win and a seventh and moved up to 12th overall. The day's other race winner was Antea Kordic (CRO).

Day four was a lay day – a time for rest and recuperation, but also a time to focus on the remaining three days of competition which will decide the winners of 2009 Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship medals and the prestigious best-nation prize, the Volvo Trophy.

Plenty of shifting around in the overall positions was expected on day five as the

one and only discard of the series came into play after the fifth race. With very tricky, shifty wind conditions on day three and during the second race of the opening day, a lot of sailors were holding on to one high score which they were looking forward to dropping from their overall points total. However, sailors were left frustrated for the second time during the event, as all racing was cancelled due to lack of wind.

Roller was particularly frustrated with the cancelled races. "I really wanted to race because I really like light winds", she explained. However, she admitted that the championship so far had given her a lot of confidence. "Now that I know I'm really capable of finishing in the top 10 I really hope I can finish in the top 10 and hopefully the top five. I don't know if it's possible to medal, but that would be amazing. Before I came here I knew this was my last time [at the Youth Worlds] and I really had to give it my all and sail my best."

Day six, the penultimate day of racing in the championship, was bright and breezy. Meech continued to runaway with the competition with a victory that can only be described as emphatic with two wins and a second place. Principally a Laser Standard sailor, for the past month he has been focusing on the Radial to prepare for this championship, training with Kiwi Olympic campaigner Sara Winther. "Great conditions for me out there today – it was just beautiful," he said, adding he was looking forward to more of the same in the final day of racing.

Behind him, there was lots of chopping and changing amongst the rest of the fleet. Tomás Pellejero (ARG) jumped up to second overall with 6, 4, 3 scores, while Marrai led a close battle for third.

Unlike the Boys' fleet, the Girls were heading for a close finish. Yin held on to the overall lead with 23 points. However, just six points behind her, Anne-Marie Rindom (DEN) was a very close second after performing strongly in the day's "really cool conditions". Bertold completed the top three on 36 points.

Both De Kerangat and Tenkanen were extremely fast in the breezier conditions but suffered a major setback when they were caught over the line early in the second race.

There was much excitement on Finals Day. The gold medal had already been secured in the Boys' fleet, with Meech the runaway winner of the championship. Pellejero triumphed in the battle for second overall, winning the final race in style to take silver. Pascal Timshel (DEN) took the bronze.

In the Girls' fleet, Tenkanen and De Kerangat again showed their speed in the breeze to place first and second in the final race, but behind them the focus was on Yin and Rindom. The Danish skipper needed at least five boats between her and the Singaporean to take gold. Yin, though, was not to be denied and came in seventh, just two places behind Rindom – enough to secure the title. Rindom won the silver with De Kerangat's second place elevating her up into the bronze medal position.

For full results and more images, please visit: <http://www.isafyouthworlds.com>



Elizabeth Yin (SIN) wins gold in the Girls' fleet



Silver medal winner Tomás Pellejero (ARG)



Sam Meech (NZL), runaway winner of the Boys' fleet

ISAF Sailing World Cup

Competitive Racing During Penultimate Leg



Gold Medallist Paige Railey (USA)

© Kieler-Woche.de/O.Kasch

"The wind did not increase in the way we hoped it would this morning, but we look forward to a better weather forecast tomorrow", said Richter.

It was a relief to see the sponsor flags of the 127th Kieler Woche blowing in the breeze on day four.

Despite the pressure of finishing enough races to enable the Medal Races to be completed, all classes finished their program for the day.

"After all these hours of waiting the last two days, it was a good feeling today to have all boats on the water racing", said Richter.

"It was a good feeling to have all the boats on the water racing"

Standings to second place. Goodison's third successive win takes him to fourth on the Standings but he will not be able to challenge Thompson, who adds a further 16 points to his score after finishing fifth and remains leader of the ISAF World Cup.

The American battle for Laser Radial supremacy continued at Kieler Woche. This time it was Railey who sailed the most consistent regatta counting only first and second place finishes. The Medal Race was no exception, with the win giving her the gold medal and lifting her to third in the ISAF Sailing World Cup standings. Tunncliffe finished the Medal Race in fourth to take the bronze medal and consolidate her position at the top of the Standings.

The 127 year-old Kieler Woche, the sixth and penultimate event in the 2008-2009 ISAF Sailing World Cup, started with highly competitive racing in the Olympic Classes.

"First we schedule three races for today, but in not very easy conditions and we are happy to have two races in most of the classes on the score", said Jobst Richter, Chairman of Kieler Woche Race Committee.

Anna Tunncliffe (USA) had a bad start to her regatta in the first race of the day with an OCS but with a second in race two the leader of the Laser Radial World Cup Standings was back on track.

"I was on the wrong side at the first start and with many boats around I was over the line", Anna Tunncliffe explained later. Tunncliffe has begun her campaign for the 2012 Olympic Games and has completed all five of the previous World Cup events in the Laser Radial.

On day two, there was no racing as rain and light winds kept all the Olympic class sailors ashore.

Day three saw more light winds upsetting the schedule with no races for the Laser Standard and Laser Radial sailors.



Paul Goodison (GBR) came as the favourite to Kiel and he did not disappoint, sailing the shortest possible way into the Medal Race by finishing first in all five races. Mike Bullot (NZL) came in second with current ISAF World Cup Leader, Nick Thompson (GBR), behind him in third.

The girls from the Laser Radial were the last out on the water but had five races on the board. With no race score outside the top two, the leader before the Medal Race was Paige Railey (USA) ahead of Evi van Acker (BEL).

Tunncliffe ended up third on equal points with Charlotte Dobson (GBR). Only five points separated the top four sailors so there was everything to play for in the Medal Race.

The event ended with thrilling Medal Races in perfect conditions with 10 to 15 knots of wind and lots of sun. It was a classic start-to-finish victory for Goodison who won the Medal Race in the Laser class and the 127th Kieler Woche overall. Leading round every mark, Goodison took the bullet ahead of Daniel Milhelic (CRO) in second and Andreas Geritzer (AUT) in third.

Fourth place for Bullot was good enough to secure a place on the podium for him to receive his third silver medal of this World Cup series. One step behind him, Milhelic took the bronze medal and moved two places up the World Cup

Van Acker sailed another excellent regatta and her second place finish in the Medal Race moved her up to sixth place in the Standings. Mihelic finished fifth overall in Kiel but maintains her position in second in the Standings. Mihelic and Tunncliffe are the only two sailors to have completed all six World Cup events.

For full results and images, visit www.kieler-woche.de.

To view the 2008-2009 ISAF Sailing World Cup Standings, visit www.sailing.org.



Tom Slingsby (AUS)

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Milan Vujasinovic (CRO)

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Tina Mihelic (CRO)

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