



THE ST. THOMAS YACHT CLUB

HOME OF THE ROLEX REGATTA

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

June 20, 2010

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PUERTO RICO'S GONZALEZ WINS 2010 SCOTIABANK INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST REGATTA

Concentration spelled success for fourteen-year-old Jorge Gonzalez, from San Juan, Puerto Rico, who won the 18th annual Scotiabank International Optimist Regatta, held out of the St. Thomas Yacht Club, U.S. Virgin Islands, June 18 to 20. "It was cold, windy and shifty and that's what made it so important to concentrate," says Gonzalez who took the fleet lead on the second day of racing and held it when the two final races were canceled on the last day of sailing due to stormy weather.

The USA's Duncan Williford finished second overall, while St. Thomas' Nicholas Gartner placed third overall. Gartner was also the top scoring U.S. Virgin Islands' sailor.

Ninety sailors ages 7 to 15 years from 11 nations – Barbados, Bermuda, Brazil, the British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, the United States and all three U.S. Virgin Islands – set sail in this Caribbean Sailing Association sanctioned event. Eight races were completed for the Red, White and Blue Fleets and 18 for the Beginner Green Fleets.

Gonzalez's finish also earned him a first place in the 13- to 15-year-old Red Fleet.

In the 11- to 12-year-old Blue Fleet, it was Romain Screve from San Francisco, California, who took the top place prize.

“I was disappointed because I wanted to win first overall,” says 12-year-old Screve. “But, I was surprised at how hard it was. The winds would be blowing 15 knots one minute and 5 knots the next. It was so shifty that it could turn your race upside down and take you from winning to losing. In one race, I won the start, then a big wind shift came through and I finished 30th.”

Ford McCann from Houston, Texas, bested the 10- and under White Fleet.

“This is the first time I’ve sailed here, but my family has often chartered a sailboat and we’ve cruised here,” says 10-year-old McCann. “It was hard, especially with the weather. It taught me to hike really hard, to never give up and to never underestimate the power of how long I could keep going.”

The Scotiabank International Optimist Regatta marked the first regatta that David Kleeger outside of his home waters in St. Croix. And, he won the beginner Green Fleet against 17 other sailors from a host of locations.

“It was really different sailing here,” says 12-year-old Kleeger, “a different wind direction, different seas, a whole different location. It was fun, though, and I just tried my best to stay ahead all weekend.”

Fourteen-year-old Megan Grapengeter-Rudnick, from Connecticut, USA, finished as Best Female and fifth overall.

Grapengeter-Rudnick also won the Pete Ives Award, given for a combination of sailing prowess, sportsmanship, determination and good attitude both on and off the water.

Meanwhile, Puerto Rico’s 8-year-old Savannah Baus won the Chuck Fuller Sportsmanship Award.

Lawrence A. Aqui, vice president of Scotiabank for the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, comments, “Even though not all of the kids were up on the podium, they were all winners and should feel proud. They sailed in windy squalls and big seas and it took a lot of perseverance, determination and skill. These are the attributes that make for success in the future. We at Scotiabank are proud to sponsor this regatta and look forward to doing so again next year.”

RESULTS (Top 3)

RED FLEET

1. Jorge Gonzalez, Puerto Rico (31)
2. Duncan Williford, USA (45)
3. Nicholas Gartner, St. Thomas, USVI (61)

BLUE FLEET

1. Romain Screve, USA (123)
2. Jack Parkin, USA (130)
3. Colin Brego, St. John, USVI (145)

WHITE FLEET

1. Ford McCann, USA (164)
2. Wiley Rogers, USA (179)
3. Miguel Monllor, Puerto Rico (220)

GREEN FLEET

1. David Kleeger, St. Croix, USVI (34)
2. Ryan Hunter, USVI (60)
3. Cameron Giblin, Puerto Rico (61)

For full results, visit www.styc.net

PRESS RELEASE

June 17, 2010

TEAM M FROM USA WINS 2010 SEA STAR TEAM RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS – 94 JUNIOR SAILORS FROM 11 NATIONS READY TO SET SAIL IN THE 18TH SCOTIABANK INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST REGATTA

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Ten teams of four sailors each took to the seas off St. Thomas' east end today to compete in the 2010 Sea Star Team Racing Championships. After eight races, it was Team M, made up of sailors from Texas and Florida, which emerged victorious.

“This is a young group of sailors, 10 to 11 years old, that we are developing,” says Team M coach, Alejandro Sole, of OptiSailors.com. “For the team racing, we had 14-year-old Christopher Williford as the fourth member to help train the three younger kids who were fast, but didn’t have a depth of experience yet. It paid off.”

Long Island Sound Optimist Team 1, from New York, and West Side, from California, finished, second and third, respectively in the Sea Star Team Racing Championships.

Earlier this week, seventy-four junior sailors competed in the three-day Sea Star Clinic, June 14 to 16. The clinic was run by internationally-recognized coaches from OptiSailors.com, who included Santiago Galan, Alejandro Sole, Gonzalo

Pollitzer, Manuel Resano, Pepe Betini, Justine O'Connor, Martin Jenkins and Agustin

'Argy' Resano. Local St. Thomas Yacht Club sailors Verian Aguilar, William Bailey and Kyle Brego assisted with the Green Fleet.

"The clinic was really good. I learned a lot," says Kai Holmberg, of St. Thomas. "We worked especially on starts."

Clinic coach and organizer, Agustin 'Argy' Resano says, "We saw a good skill level from the more advanced sailors. It was also nice to see nearly 20 Green Fleet sailors come out for the Clinic. These beginners are the future of the sport."

"We're thrilled to be involved with the clinic and team racing," says Meme St. John, general manager for Sea Star Lines in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. "This is a wonderful event that is well organized and provides such a great opportunity for our youth to learn the life skills that sailing teaches and also to make new friends."

The 18th Annual Scotiabank International Optimist Regatta gets underway tomorrow. Ninety-four sailors ranging in age from 8 to 15 and sailing from Barbados, Bermuda, Brazil, the British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, the United States and U.S. Virgin Islands will compete in this three-day regatta that ends Sunday.

In addition to the hi-caliber racing, shoreside activities include the Parade of Nations and Welcome Party where the Bertha C. Bochulte Burning Blazers steel pan band performed as well as a Caribbean-themed night that includes fire blowers and finally a beachside brunch and Awards Ceremony scheduled for 3 p.m. on Sunday June 20th.

Trophies will be awarded to the top five finishers in each fleet and top three overall. Additional trophies include the Peter Ives' Perpetual Trophy, the Chuck Fuller Sportsmanship Award and the Top Female sailor.

"Sailing teaches so many wonderful skills such as determination, team work, setting a goal and following through," says Kelly Morgan, senior sales leader for Scotiabank. "We at Scotiabank have been proud to promote junior sailing in the Caribbean for nearly 20 years."

Sailors and organizers have adopted a 'Green' theme this year by aligning with Sailors for the Sea and by encouraging the sailors to re-fill water bottles at water coolers provided by Seven Seas Water.

"This has dramatically cut down on plastic bottles going into the trash," says Margo Lynch, who co-directs this year's regatta with Cindy Hackstaff and Joyce McKenzie.

For more information, call 340-775-6320; fax: 340-775-3600, or Email: scotiabankregatta@gmail.com. Or visit the St. Thomas Yacht Club website at: www.styc.net

Also, visit the Scotiabank International Optimist Regatta on Facebook!

ABOUT THE SPONSOR

Scotiabank - which celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2007 - is one of North America's premier financial institutions and Canada's most international bank. With close to 57,000 employees, Scotiabank Group and its affiliates serve approximately 12 million customers in some 50 countries, including 21 Caribbean island nations, around the world. Offerings include a diverse range of products and services, including personal, commercial, corporate and investment banking. Scotiabank in the U.S. Virgin Islands has proudly served as title sponsor of the Scotiabank International Optimist Regatta, hosted out of the St. Thomas Yacht Club, since 1992. This youth regatta is the largest annual event of its kind in the Caribbean.