

SAISA Cressy Qualifiers – September 8-9, 2007

The Clearwater Yacht Club hosted the SAISA Single-handed District Championship & Qualifier for the ISSA National Single-handed Championship for the Cressy Trophy. David Billing, Regatta Chairman, organized the event at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center, with racing in the Gulf of Mexico. The Clearwater Yacht Club race committee and several parent volunteers from different schools assisted the Principal Race Officer Fairlie Brinkley. Six judges in three boats were led by Chief Judge Ann Newton, and only seven yellow flags were reported.

Eleven Laser Full rigs and an unprecedented sixty-four Laser Radials, representing thirty-seven High Schools competed for the honor of representing SAISA and their school at the National Championship in Seattle, Washington. In order to provide as fair as possible sailing for such a large radial fleet, the radials were split into four groups and sailed their races using a round robin format. All races were run on a trapezoid course with a leeward gate and upwind finish near mark two.

A glance at the entry list made it clear that the level of competition would be very high indeed. One competitor had recently returned from the Pan American Games in Rio, two competitors raced in the Radial World Championships in Europe this summer, and six have qualified to race at the USA Olympic Trials this October. The race committee and spectators were not disappointed; the level of competition was very high with frequent changes near the top of the leader board.

On Saturday, racing started with a light and shifty easterly breeze, which finally faded causing race three to be abandoned as the Northwesterly sea breeze started to move over the course area. Saturday afternoon was good sailing with 8-10 knots all afternoon. Sunday saw stronger easterly pressure and that held fairly steady for the duration of racing.

A total of twelve races (36 starts) were completed over the weekend with a 20 minute race target time. Live Updates were posted on the event web-site during racing and the provisional results were available on-line after each race.

No protests were filed and as soon as the protest time expired, Tom Monkus, Director of SAISA, presented the awards and distributed the SAISA district invitations to the National Championship.

Invited to compete in the ISSA National High School Single-handed Championship to be held October 27/28 at The Corinthian Yacht Club, Seattle, Washington were:

Laser Full Rig:

Zeke Horowitz, Pine View School, Sarasota, Florida

David Hernandez, Killian Senior High School, Miami, Florida

Luke Lawrence, Martin County High School, Stuart, Florida

First Alternate Nicklas Anderson, St. Andrew's School, Boca Raton, Florida

Laser Radial:

Ian Heausler, H.B. Plant High School, Tampa, Florida

Mateo Vargas, Lakewood High School, St Petersburg, Florida

Nick Voss, La Salle High School, Miami, Florida

First Alternate Justin Doane, Pine View School, Sarasota, Florida

Congratulations to all the competitors, you sailed well and are credits to your schools. We enjoyed hosting this event for SAISA and hope you'll return to Clearwater in the future.

David Billing

Past Commodore

Clearwater Yacht Club