

2011 International Lightning Class Association World Championship Day 5 Report

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Buzios, Brazil

The Chilean Team of Tito Gonzalez sailing with his son, Diego and Cristian Herman mathematically clinched the 2011 International Lightning Class Association World Championship today with two bullets. Racing concludes tomorrow with 1 final race to conclude the 9 race series. The Gonzalez team won the first race today by at least 45 seconds over the Brazilian Teams of Claus Biekarck, Gunner Ficker and Marcelo Batista da Silva in second and Thomas Sumner, Felipe Brito and Fillipe Gil in third. By having breathing room, the The Chilean Team reported that they were able to take it easy up the last beat and conserved energy for the next race. Winds were from the East at 14-16 kts. The Team also credits today's success to great starts. With their consistent scores they said they were able to risk a bit more today and really push the line.

The second race brought winds of 16-18kts with gusts to 20kts. Gonzalez and crew battled the entire race with Team Stark. Starck didn't give Gonzalez any breathing room. They were neck and neck the entire race. Gonzalez rounded the windward mark in first, Starck gybed inside to take the advantage and pass them downwind. Team Gonzalez would then take the lead on the upwind legs and eventually on the line at the finish.

With Team Gonzalez in first, the race tomorrow is for runner-up. Team Biekarck currently sits in 2nd place overall with 22 points, Team Starck is in 3rd with 24 points and Team Sumner is in 4th with 25 points.

In 5th and 6th place overall are the Chilean Teams of Cristobal Perez, Philipp Goyeneche and Ignacio Perez with 34 points and Felipe Robles, Pablo Lorca and Andres Guevara with 35 points. Another close battle that will continue tomorrow.

The past two weeks, teams from 8 different counties have been competing in the ILCA South American, International Masters' and World Championships. Many of the teams have chosen to bear a small pink sticker on their transom. This gesture is in remembrance of Olivia Constants, a talented young lady who lost her life a few weeks ago in a tragic sailing accident in Annapolis, Maryland, USA. It also represents the support to the Constants Family and the Severn Sailing Association. The Constants Family is an integral part of the Dixie District, Fleet 329 Lightning Family. This is yet another reminder that the Lightning Class is more than just great competition, it is a group of wonderful friends who in the time of need show their support to fellow Class members.

Racing concludes tomorrow with an 11 am warning, one race scheduled. Follow live text coverage of racing at www.lightningclass.org

The events have been made possible by support and grants received by the following sponsors:

- Brazilian Sailing Federation – CBVM sponsored by Bradesco Bank, CPFL, Travel Ace and Tamoyo.
- Rio de Janeiro Sailing Federation – FEVERJ
- City of Búzios Sports and Tourism Secretary's
- Segurigriff HG – High Security Holograms
- Sercon Ltda. A Steris Company
- Saturno Tintas
- Glassit Fiberglass
- Bombril
- Niagara Industrial
- Cerveja Germânia

Photo by Joel Auerbach:



Bow #11 - Tito Gonzalez Mas, Diego Gonzalez Parro and Cristian Herman Sanhueza

Photos by Thomas Jansen:



Race 8 Start



Bow # 3 Claus Biekarck, Gunner Ficker, Marcelo Batista da Silva, Currently in 2nd Place



Special Remembrance of Olivia Constants and sign of support for fellow Lightning sailors, the Constance Family and the Severn Sailing Association.