Red Flannels Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club - Fleet 5 Chicago, Illinois September 21-22, 2002

			Sat 9/21	Sat 9/21	Sat 9/21	Sat 9/21	Sun 9/22	Sun 9/22	Sun 9/22	
Pos	Sail#	Skipper/Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	Total
1	14740	Faude / Drake / Marden	3	1	1	13	1	2	1	6
2	14938	Stix / Simonsen / Elmergreen	1	2	2	1	4	1	3	7
3	14007	Graf / Olson / Caddy	2	7	5	2	11	3	7	19
4	13779	Schmahl / Steiner / McCance	4	15	3	4	5	7	10	23
5	14190	Schmahl / Stu / Peggster	8	3	6	10	6	6	5	26
6	13870	Schillebeeckx / Schillebeeckx / Schillebeeckx	9	17	7	12	10	5	2	33
7	14137	Gibson / Jenkins / English	6	6	17	9	3	10	ocs	34
8	15081	Gagnon / Phelan / Grahovac	13	4	9	11	ocs	8	4	36
9	14613	Nickel / Ehrenberg / O'Brien	5	11	12	16	2	11	8	37
10	14065	Fairman / Schindler / Hartshorn	7	18	4	ocs	15	9	9	44
11	14015	Steffensson / Steffenson / Klopfenstein	14	8	8	5	12	15	DNS	47
12	14884	Burke / Burke / Kalisiak	11	10	14	6	8	14	DNS	49
13	15005	Franke / Hawkins / Hopkins	10	16	15	14	7	4	DNS	50
14	14503	Peet / Peet / Davis	16	14	11	15	9	12	6	52
15	15158	Spira / Ledger / Armbruster	ocs	13	10	7	13	13	11	54
16	10443	Hennessy / Dunne / Larson	15	9	16	3	14	16	DNS	57
17	14940	Cobbum / Lester / Schmahl	12	5	18	8	DNS	DNS	DNS	63
18	14130	Merkatoris / Merkatoris / Merkatoris	17	12	13	18	DNS	DNS	DNS	80
19	14507	Knox / Knox / Novak	18	19	19	17	DNS	DNS	DNS	93

A letter to last year's champ.

Dear Team Dieball,

I know as I write this that you and Laurie are the proud parents of the lovely Miss Meghan Dieball. I just wanted to tell you how much everyone missed you last weekend at the regatta. Having a first child is maybe the only acceptable reason for not trying to defend your title. Thanks for the picture. We're so happy for you two and we hope that next year all three of you show up for the Red Flannels. We'll have an early first birthday party for Meghan. Here's a little of what you missed.

The Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club and Lightning Fleet 5 again hosted The Red Flannels September 21 and 22. For those of you who haven't been to the Flannels in a couple of years, really only the weekend we hold the regatta has stayed the same. So much else is different, you really ought to show up next year to see all the improvement that's been made.

CCYC has made an unbelievable offer to small boat racers from all over Chicago: "Come bring your boat to Montrose Harbor and we'll make this the best One-Design club in the city." It's worked! About 15 Vanguard 15 sailors have moved into a brand new drysail area to the East of the club and are sailing every Thursday night. There are Lasers going out after work in the evenings. There's a bunch of Rhodes 19s. There's a fleet of new 420s for the juniors. And there's still that fleet of crazy frostbiters who sail Corinthian Dinghies all winter long--if the water's liquid. Add all that to Lightning Fleet 5 which is adding a number of new sailors. The Club's locker rooms have been redone too. The whole place is incredible for racing small boats. The bar's really cheap... the membership is really supportive of juniors and nobody looks twice at you if you walk into the club in a dry suit. What else does a small boat sailor need? Mike Huffman predicted CCYC would one day be the best place to race from in Chicago. Huf is generally right about stuff.

Anyway Skip, this year's Flannels was an excellent event. Even without you and the Ernball, we still had 20 boats. Sailors came from as far as Denver and the Nickels folks sent a factory boat over from Michigan with a top crew so they could fly in. There were 2 young guys from St. Louis who dragged their Dad around the course all weekend and had a hand in deciding the regatta in the last race. The usual suspects from Cheeseland (curd and cultural epicenter of the universe and my home state) were there. There was dancing Saturday night like we haven't had since the Bruin was winning the regatta every year. It was something.

You should have seen the race committee. No lame permanent marks anymore. Perfectly square starting lines. Starting on time both Saturday and Sunday. Devilishly putting windward marks well in-shore so things would be interesting at the top of the beats in the shifting shore breeze both days. Moving weather marks repeatedly to keep up with the shifts that happened during the downwind legs. Bruce Thompson, Eddie Krtolich, RJ Trejo, Dick Hinze and everyone else on the RC were on fire. We got in 7 races! For the last few years in the Midwest District, we've been sailing a lot of 5 race regattas. Now twice this year, we've had 7. Awesome. A bunch of V-15ers helped out on the crash boats. We square boaters owe them the return favor. Did you ever sail a District event with two discard races? We just did!

Anyway Skip, you're probably getting ready to change a diaper or something, so I'll keep this short.

Dave Stix sailed with Amy Simonsen and Elmo and their worst finish over 7 races was 4th. Now normally I don't like discards. This year I learned something. If you wiggle that carbon hiking tiller just right, discards can be your friend. Hans Graf and Jimmy Olson and Dean Cady Jr. were third and I hope they never do anything silly like paint the hull on 14007. That boat's a treasure. It's like a Midwestern Doc Gilbert Express... a piece of pre-modern art. Our new Red Flannels Regatta Chairman For Life, David Schmahl was fourth with his boat partner Brad Steiner and Rock Star (El Burro Loco) Lightning and V-15 crew Elisabeth McCance. Their plan is for Brad to buy David out and for David to add another boat to the fleet. David and his wife are preggers with twins... I hope we see David sometime before 2006. He did an amazing job organizing this regatta.

That's what you missed Skip. Can't wait to meet Meghan in person. Give Laurie a hug for all of us.

Cheers,

Bill Faude Jared Drake Ben Marden

PS: Please send back the traveling trophy. The red flannels (yeah, the red one-piece polar underwear with the drop seat), those, you can keep.