

Bloemeke, Morton Are Junior World Champions

Tie-breaking throw-out race gives Mike Segerblom a close second.

Steve Bloemeke and Greg Morton, first and third place skippers in the U.S. Junior Nationals, teamed up to win the 1987 World Junior Championship Vieri Lasno Trophy, at Northern Yacht Club, North Sydney Nova Scotia, by the barest margin possible over fellow U.S. entries Mike Segerblom and Kim Thompson. The scores were tied at six points, with three first place finishes and two second places each. With the throw-out race reinstated as the tie breaker, Steve and Greg were judged winners, with a 4th place second race, against Mike's DNF in the high wind third race.

Spain's Lamen Barras and Javier Barboza were third at 32.7 points, only .1 ahead of Alberto Viera and Cristina Rippe of Uruguay at 32.8. Horacio Carabelli and Joaquin Pacheco, also of Uruguay were 5th. The close racing, when most teams were using unfamiliar equipment, in an unusually high wind series, which contributed to break-downs and upsets, showed the strength of the class juniors throughout the world.

One dramatic upset of the series oc-



North Sydney gas station owner salutes the Junior Championship with his own brand of humor. (Buzz Lamb photo)

curred before racing even began. As Steve and Greg sailed out for a practice round, they eased sails to reach down the harbor. They cut inside a buoy marking the only shallow spot in the whole area, struck bottom with the board, and immediately capsized. They righted the boat in waist

deep water, but the force of the collision had driven the board back against the trunk, splitting the fiberglass, and causing a leak into the inner hull.

Luckily they had both skill and fiberglass at hand for repairs, and before the opening ceremony was over, the boat was upside down at Astaphen's garage, patched and drying under Kim Thompson's hair dryer.

Monday's registration, sail measuring, and boat weighing, was climaxed by the opening ceremony and party for all contestants, who were entertained by a championship drill team, and the Sprigs of Heather bagpipe band. Race Committee Chairman Steve Astaphen welcomed all contestants and promised them fair sailing. Vice Commodore Doug DeSouza, SCIRA Representative, raised the SCIRA flag as the official opening of the regatta.

On Tuesday the skippers meeting was followed by a practice race. The scheduled first race of the series was first postponed, and then cancelled because of threatening clouds.

The first race got underway on Wed-



World Junior Championship start, with the North Sydney waterfront in the background. (Buzz Lamb photo)



Above: Winners Steve Bloemke and Greg Morton on the finish line. (Doug de Souza photo) At Right: Steve Bloemke, left and crew, Greg Morton receive congratulations from Vice Commodore Doug de Souza. (Buzz Lamb photo)



Above left: High school marching bands entertained at the opening ceremony. Above right: Mike Segerblom and Kun Thompson, second place, on a fast plane. (Buzz Lamb photos)



nesday morning in light shifty off-shore winds of 8 to 10. The two U.S. boats led all the way in this race, with Steve finishing first and Mike second. A huge shift on the last beat brought Damien Borrus of Spain from back in the pack into third place, leaving boats caught on the left side of the course way out at the finish.

The second race, delayed first for replacement of a broken boom fitting on one boat, then for a freighter to pass, and then for a wind shift, got underway in winds of about the same velocity as the first, but shifting more westerly. In this race Mike led at every mark, with Javier Lopez Varquez, Spain, in second, and Horacio Carabelli, Uruguay in third. Steve finished in fourth place.

Thursday morning's rain was replaced by fog as boats paddled toward the starting line in the lightest of breezes. By the start, the sun was shining and winds were 12 to 15, and building. As the boats reached the windward mark with Steve in the lead, they took off on a screaming plane, and the winds increased. All went well until the jibe mark, where Javier of Spain capsized as he jibed the boat. Other boats were soon in trouble including Horacio of Uruguay, Tommi of Finland, and John from Canada. Mike dropped out when his rudder popped loose for the second time in the race. The Race Committee changed the course to two triangles to avoid a dead downwind leg, in the heavy wind and seas. Steve, who led

all the way, capsized immediately after the finish. Damien was second, and Alberto third.

The wind diminished somewhat in the afternoon, but the rest of the day was devoted to rescue and repair of damaged equipment.

On Friday the pressure was on contestants and committee alike to complete three races, thus assuring a throw-out race for the series. The wind was at least cooperative, providing 12 to 15 for the first race, and 15 to 18 for the second. Again, there were some problems with unsecured rudders popping out on the off-wind legs. In these two races Mike and Steve exchanged firsts and seconds, and Alberto

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had two thirds to Damien's two fourth place finishes.

The wind was more moderate for the sixth race which featured heavy competition between Mike and Steve for the entire course. Both had their problems; Steve hit a mark, and both crews went overboard when straps gave way under the heavy pressure of "jump hiking". Mike held the advantage to the finish with Steve second. A terrific battle developed between the next three boats right at the finish, with Alberto again finishing third. Horacio held Damien on the last beat, but lost out on the last tack to the finish, giving the fourth place to Damien, and taking the fifth place.

Saturday morning the two U.S. teams were tied, and only a whisker thin .1

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Nation	Plazes	Points	Finish
US 18238	Steve Bloemke/Greg Morton	USA	1-(4)-1-2-1-2	6.0	1
US 25197	Mike Segerblom/Kim Thompson	USA	2-1-(NF)-1-2-1	6.0	2
E 24662	Damien Borrás/Javier Borbolla	Spain	3-(6)-2-4-4-4	32.7	3
U 23712	Alberto Viera/Cristia Rippe	Uruguay	(8)-5-3-3-3-3	37.8	4
U 22701	Horacio Carabelli/Joaquin Pacheco	Uruguay	6-3-(NF)-5-5-5	49.1	5
E 24748	Javier Lopez Varquez, Jose Bats	Spain	4-2-NF-5-NF-(NS)	57.0	6
KC 21480	David Bais/Chris Power	Canada	5-10-(NF)-10-6-6	65.4	7
D 22564	Jens Soejensen/Morten Bryden	Denmark	(16)-7-5-7-9-9	66.0	8
KB 22550	Mark Henneberger/Guy Eldridge	Bermuda	(11)-11-4-11-7-8	69.0	9
L 21753	Jussi Savola/Mikko Nonsinen	Finland	9-9-6-9-(11)-7	69.7	10
KC 22550	John McNamara/Danna Smith	Canada	7-8-(NF)-NF-10-10	77.0	11
L 24313	Taruini Valkola/Michael Seppala	Finland	12-12-NF-8-8-(NS)	82.0	12

separated Spain and Uruguay for third and fourth. The day dawned stormy, with worse weather forecast. After reading the wind at 25 to 30 and monitoring conditions during a two hour hold, the committee decided to abandon the 7th race, and call the championship at 6 races.

One emphasis of the deed of gifts for the Vieri Lasino Trophy is that the contestants be housed in private homes for

the championship if possible. The warm hospitality of the people of North Sydney insured that all contestants were welcomed and made part of their homes and families. Clothes were dried, warm sweaters loaned where necessary due to mishandled baggage at airports around the world, and the young people became part of their new community for the duration of their stay.



Kim Thompson, crew, and Mike Segerblom, runners-up from U.S.A., are shown with Northern Yacht Club Commodore Mike Astaphen.



Crew Javier Borbolla, left, and Damien Borrás from Spain are receiving trophies from Nestle Astaphen for their third place finish.



Mayor Tom Young presents Uruguayans Alberto Viera and Cristia Rippe, skipper, their fourth place trophy.



Skipper Horacio Carabelli and Joaquin Pacheco from Uruguay are all smiles with their fifth place trophy.