

Argentines Gomez/Montanaro Oust Spanish for Jr. World Title

In unusually light conditions for the venue, 18 year old Lucas Gomez and 19 year old Marcos Montanaro of Argentina, won the last race to claim the 1999 Jr. Snipe World Championship title in Almería, Spain, August 17-21. Both Spanish teams of Paco Sanchez/Matias Ros and Raul Valenzuela/Carlos Carmona, were leading 1-2 into the last day of the Championship. With all races but one sailed in winds under 12 knots, not all races could be sailed and there were no throw-out races. The Race Committee moved the start time up the last day to 11:00 and amended the Sailing Instructions to attempt 3 races to give the competitors a throw-out, but the wind would not cooperate and only one race was held on the final day.

22 teams from 12 countries competed for this years championship with 12 sailors returning to the Jr. Worlds for their second time to compete. The Deed of Gift for the Vieri Lasinio De Castelvero Jr. World trophy states that a competitor must not turn 20 years in the year of competition. The youngest sailor was 14 year old Sean Adams of the US.

After formal Opening Ceremonies at the Club de Mar Almería, the sailors were off for their first day of competition. Only one race was held in perfect winds of 8-12 knots. Gomez/Montanaro, Jr. World veterans Pablo Defazio/Diego Stefani of Uruguay and Dustin Kays/Sean Adams of the US, started at the pin and hit the left side to lead around the weather mark. Gomez/Montanaro held their lead the entire race with Danes Thomas Rasmussen/Chris Pedersen climbing to a 2nd place finish.

The second day started in about 6 knots of breeze with Kays/Adams port tacking the fleet in a clean start. At the weather mark it was Defazio/Stafani of Uruguay, Kays/Adams of the US and Emanuel Botello/Lewis Marcos of Argentina followed by Roberto Paradedá/Daniel Ortega of Brazil and local favorite Raul Valenzuela/Carlos Carmona of Spain to round out the top 5. The Uruguayans held and lengthened their lead while the rest of the pack had a tight rounding at the last leeward mark rounding. By the finish, Women's World champions Ekaterina Skudina and Tatiana Lartseva of Russia had squeaked out of the pack and in good tactical moves, held Argentines Gomez/Montanaro, who had also climbed through the pack, to

the finish. Anxious to finish, the Argentines tacked too early, tagging the Russians stern. This cost them 2 places and a 720 - a hard lesson to learn. The breeze picked up to 12-15 knots for the third race with the seas becoming choppy and confused. The Spanish teams of Sanchez/Ros and Valenzuela/Carmona showed the fleet the way around the course and finished 1-2 respectively. They repeated this on the second day, even in the light breeze. The RC postponed the start on day 3 because of shifting winds. After hours in the club swimming pool, any hint of breeze made the competitors anxious to race, and finally the RC sent the sailors out for one race in the light breeze.



photo above: Lucas Gomez & Marcos Montanaro celebrate being World Champions!

On the final day, the sailors were sent out early, but only a single race was held to complete the championship.

SCIRA Spain and the Club de Mar Almería did an excellent job organizing the Championship. The facilities were incredible, offering the juniors a huge swimming pool to play in waiting for the wind. Also available were tennis, soccer, basketball and other activities.

1999 Snipe Junior World Championship Almería, Spain

	Skipper/Crew	Country/Sail #	Finishes	Total
1.	Lucas Gomez/Marcos Montanaro	ARG 29230	1-5-10-4-1	20.5
2.	Francisco Sanchez/Matias Ros	ESP 28764	8-10-1-1-2	21.5
3.	Raul Valenzuela/Carlos Carmona	ESP 9779	10-4-2-2-4	22
4.	Roberto Paradedá/Daniel Ortega	BRA 29366	4-3-5-7-8	27
5.	Pablo Defazio/Diego Stafani	URU 28024	11-1-3-12-3	29.75
6.	Frederico Vasconcellos/P. Mascarenhas	BRA 29612	5-19-4-8-5	41
7.	Emanuel Botello/Lewis Marcos	ARG 27860	13-6-8-6-10	43
8.	Ekaterina Skudina/Tatiana Lartseva	RUS 29480	14-2-14-3-13	46
9.	Santiago Silveira/Alejandro Foglia	URU 27785	cnf-12-9-10-7	50
10.	Maria Skoliapova/Mikhail Kondratyev	RUS 29490	6-11-16-9-12	54
11.	Jorge Gonzales/Tomas Depolo	CHI 28840	19-9-7-5-15	55
12.	Thomas Rasmussen/Chris Pedersen	DEN 26470	2-dnc-11-11-11	57
13.	Dustin Kays/Sean Adams	USA 25071	12-7-12-20-6	57
14.	Otto Nielsen/Peter Jacobsen	DEN 29020	9-16-6-13-14	58
15.	Francisco Mesquita/Artur Cortereal	POR 28028	3-8-18-17-17	63
16.	Philip Marshall/Duncan Read	GBR 29501	17-17-13-18-16	81
17.	Lee Sackett/Grant Glass	USA 28575	15-14-17-19-18	83
18.	Thomas Mercante/Marco Mazzeo	ITA 28817	18-15-20-14-19	86
19.	Andrea Garibbo/Simone Ricci	ITA 28771	cnf-18-21-15-9	88
20.	Viktor Sinding Larsen/Jonas Stromquis	NOR 19428	16-13-15-22-ocs	91
21.	Alexandre Soares/Nuno Vasconcelos	POR 29407	20-dsq-22-16-20	102
22.	Magnus Hedmark/Lars Oppkvitne	NOR 22802	21-20-19-21-21	102