

Foglia Sisters Win 2nd Women's World Title

2007 Women's World Championship

Punta del Este, Uruguay
November 19-26, 2007

It has been a long time since Uruguay started working on the idea of organizing a Women's World Championship. They first lost to the US in 2002, then to Norway in 2004, but the best combination was to organize it in 2006, with the defending champions at home.

Fifteen crews from Argentina, Chile, Bermuda, Brazil, Japan, Italy, Mexico and Norway showed up. The locals Andrea and Mariana Foglia were the favorites from the very start, but the Maurini/Court from Chile and Barbarossa/Bonini from Italy were expected to fight hard for the title. The revelation was, without any doubt, the Japanese crew of Ayako Yamaguchi and Motoko Ibaragi.

For those that have experienced the hospitality and organization of the Yacht Club Punta del Este, this championship was no exception. Everything worked perfectly, from the charter boats, to the race management in the water, to the very enjoyable social events. Even the weather was on the girls' side, letting this be the first Snipe intercontinental event with 11 races!

The first race went out in a 10 Kt Northwesterly wind. The Italians Barbarossa/Bonini and the Foglia sisters from Uruguay took the favored pin end. After a close fight, the Uruguayans took the lead and never looked back. At the finish line, they were followed by Maurini/Court of Chile and Barbarossa/Bonini from Italy.

In the second race the wind played all its tricks, but the RC did good work to keep the course straight. Maurini/Court took a fair lead in the light and lumpy conditions. The Foglias had a bad start and were sailing back in the pack by the first leeward rounding. But, in the second beat they were the first to catch a strong righty and managed to round the second beat in second place, following the Chileans. The Uruguayans had great speed, got closer and closer to the leaders and beat them in a tacking duel just 50 meters from the finish line. Barbarossa/Bonini came in third again, giving a hint of what the fight for the first places of the championship would.

The third race was for Japan from the very start. Yamauchi/Ibaragi started first at the RC boat and comfortably extended their lead in the 5-6 knots breeze. Time was on their side, but very close, when they rounded the first leeward mark in 38 minutes! Nobody was sure if the race would have to be abandoned or not but, with the help of the light but steady wind and a shortening of 30% of the last leg, the Japanese crew managed to complete the race in 1 hour and 25 minutes. They were followed by the Foglia sisters who finished the day leading

the championship with a 5.5 points advantage over the Italians



Barbarossa/Bonini. The second day seemed somewhat different. Race #4 started in a 10 knot wind Westerly wind and chop, with a considerable 1 knot cross current. Maria Stefani and Catalina Sposato from Bermuda started first by the pin end and they were leading by 100 meters by the first windward mark. The Argentinians Agusti/Guerra got close during the reach legs, but the Uruguayans fought back for the first place.

The pressure was on the left side of the course. Yamauchi/Ibaragi from Japan noticed that and got close to the leaders at the end of the second beat. After rounding in second place the last leg, they showed great skill in catching the shifts and handling their boat, to beat Stefani/Sposato by half a boat length just crossing the finish line. Now the Japanese were serious contenders for the title.

Race #5 started in an 8 Kt but decreasing breeze. Andrea and Mariana Foglia managed their way to lead the race going down for the leeward mark, but got there 5 SECONDS too late and the race was abandoned.

After waiting one hour for the breeze to build up, the RC called out the day and planned for an early start on Thursday.

Race #5 started with 13 knots from the North in very puffy and shifty conditions which remained for the rest of the day. Ayako Yamaguchi and Motoko Ibaragi had an excellent start at the race committee boat and were leading until the first half of the windward leg. Although Andrea and Mariana Foglia didn't have a good start, they managed to sail with great speed as the breeze grew stronger and got first to the windward mark. From then onwards, Foglia sisters kept well their first place, leaving the Japanese team in second and Tata/Rodriguez in third.

Race #6 was also a fight for the first place between Yamaguchi/Ibaragi and Foglia/Foglia. Following them, there was a close fight between Barbarossa/Bonini, Bellotti/Overgoor, Maurini/Court and Rafaniello/Bugge that the Chileans won.

At the start of race #7 puffs were arriving from the left side, so Foglia/Foglia



chose this side with most of the fleet. But the Argentines Agusti/Maroglio and Bellotti/Overgoor went to the right and it paid off! They rounded first and second place but were overtaken by the first Uruguayans who were already consolidating their lead in the Championship. The Brazilians came in second and Bermudians in third.



Day four promised to be a definition one. Race #8 was won once again by the Foglia sisters from beginning to end, taking advantage of their knowledge of the local sea breeze. Yamaguchi/Ibaragi clinched a second place, followed by Rafaniello/Bugge in third. The Japanese were in a comfortable second place overall and still fighting for the Gold.

Race number 9 was also won by the Foglias, but with a pending protest. So, it was not over yet!

In race #10, Foglia/Foglia needed to finish less than 3 places behind Yamaguchi/Ibaragi in order to nail the Jiro Yamaguchi Trophy even without racing the eleventh race. At the first windward mark, Stefani/Sposato were first, followed by



Barbossa/Bonini.

Barbossa/Bonini in second and Maurin/Court in third. At this point Yamaguchi/Ibaragi were 7th and Foglia/Foglia 10th. Throughout the regatta, both the Japanese and Uruguayan team climbed in order to finish 4th and 6th respectively. The race was won by Stefani/Sposato who kept their first place since the start, followed by Rafaniello/Bugge and

Although Foglia sisters were World Champions, they wouldn't believe it until they could see it with their own eyes the regatta results and make their own calculations. After realizing that their

had won the championship even with one race to go, the party started with their parents Sandra and Alejandro, with their coach Pablo Defazio and with all the competitors. The Uruguayans would later retire from race #9, assuming their responsibility in the incident.



The last race was a match for the third place in between the Chileans, the Italians and the Bermudians.

In a 10 Kt Southeasterly gradient wind, Barbossa/Bonini from Italy early capitalized the offshore backed wind to cross the fleet and work out a comfortable lead by the first windward rounding. Yoshimura/Shimamoto rounded in second place followed by the Foglia sisters. It was no exception. The Foglias approached the leaders, took on the Japanese by the last run and engaged in a tacking duel with the Italians in the middle of the last beat. At the end, the World Champions took the race from the Italians and crossed the line to officially become the Women's World Champions for the second time in a row. The Italians were in second and Yoshimura/Shimamoto in third.

It was all party from there on. There were hamburgers and refreshments at the dock, followed by a prize giving ceremony including a dancing party. The fun continued in the traditional Moby Dick bar just half a block from the club, until sunrise! This was serious fun!

It was an excellent championship that not only showed the increasing level of competition of Women worldwide, but also promoted Women Sailing in Latin America in a great extent from 2 crews in 2004 to 9 crews in 2006.

	<i>Skipper/Crew</i>	<i>Country/Sail</i>	<i>Finishes</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Andrea/Mariana Foglia	URU 29829	1-1-2-4-1-1-1-1-(ret)-(6)-1	11.25
2.	Ayako Yamaguchi/Motoko Ibaragi	JPN 30081	4-(7)-1-1-2-2-(6)-2-1-4-6	22.25
3.	Marissa Maurin/Carolina Court	CHI 30491	2-2-(9)-(7)-4-3-3-7-5-7-(11)	40.
4.	Sarah Barbarossa/Barbara Bonini	ITA 29975	3-3-3-6-(10)-4-8-(12)-9-3-2	41.
5.	Maria Stefani/Catalina Sposato	BER 25707	7-(10)-8-2-(12)-5-5-4-6-1-4	41.75
6.	M. Emilia Tato/Rosina Rodriguez	URU 28633	5-5-(10)-5-3-6-9-5-2-(11)-8	48.
7.	Claudia Rafaniello/Alessandra Bugge	URU 29251	10-8-6-8-5-(11)-11-3-4-2-5	51.
8.	Ana Renata Bellotti/Adriana Overgoor	BRA 29823	9-4-5-(10)-6-(10)-2-6-10-10-7	59.
9.	Franca Pesci/Carla Pesci	ARG 28970	(12)-6-4-(12)-8-8-4-9-7-5-12	63.
10.	Trixy Agusti/Florencia Guerra	ARG 29340	8-9-(13)-3-7-9-7-(10)-3-9-10	65.
11.	En Yoshimura/Akiko Shimamoto	JPN 28737	(11)-11-7-9-9-7-(12)-11-8-8-3	73.
12.	Judith Agusti/Cecilia Maroglio	ARG 30452	6-(13)-12-13-(RET)-12-10-8-11-12-9	93.
13.	Mio Sakamoto/Kuniko Yamada	JPN 29603	13-12-(14)-11-11-13-14-13-12-(ocs)-14	113.
14.	Fernanda Calderon/Veronica Rodriguez	MEX 25125	(14)-14-(15)-14-13-14-13-14-13-14-13	127.
15.	Hanne Winder Larsen/Cecilie Hurlen	NOR 29456	(15)-(15)-11-15-14-15-15-15-14-13-15	127.

