

SAISA Cressy Qualifiers – September 13-14, 2008

Clearwater Yacht Club hosted the SAISA Single-handed District Championship & Qualifier for the ISSA National Single-handed Championship for the Cressy Trophy. David Billing, Regatta Chairman, organized the event at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center, with racing in the Gulf of Mexico. The Clearwater Yacht Club race committee assisted the Principal Race Officer Fairlie Brinkley, and on the water judges were Chief Judge Ann Newton, US Sailing Certified Umpire and Judge, Stephen Van Dyck, Senior Judge Carrie Greene and SarahBeth Reeves.

Ten Laser Full rigs and forty-six Laser Radials competed for the honor of representing SAISA and their school at the National Championship. On Saturday, racing started with a Southeasterly breeze, gradually shifting to the West and building to a steady ten knots for the rest of the day. The morning saw a rolling swell left over from Hurricane Ike, but it subsided by mid-afternoon. Sunday's racing conditions were nearly perfect with a ten knot Southwesterly d and nearly flat seas.

A total of fifteen races for the radials and sixteen for the Lasers (34 starts) were completed over the weekend with all but a few of the races completed in a very tight range of 17 to 18 minutes. Live Updates were posted on the event web site during racing and the provisional results were available on-line after each race.

There were no protests filed, although there was one redress request. A scoring error was found prior to the hearing and the request was withdrawn. Tom Monkus, Director of SAISA, presented the awards and distributed the SAISA district invitations to the National Championship.

Invited to compete in the National High School Singlehanded Championship for the Cressy Trophy hosted by Cornell University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges and MASSA; to be held at Merrill Family Sailing Center, Ithaca, NY were: Laser Full Rig – 1. Luke Lawrence, Martin County High School 2. Andrew Fox, Pine Crest School 3. Cleve Hancock, St. Petersburg High and 4 Tom Fink from Ransom Everglades. Radial winners were First, Edgar Diminich, St. Edwards School 2. Mateo Vargas, Lakewood High School 3. Ian Heausler, Henry B. Plant High School and 4. Christopher Stocke from Sarasota High School.

Congratulations to all the competitors. We enjoyed working with you and watching you sail. We were privileged to host this event for SAISA and look forward to seeing you here at Clearwater Yacht Club and Clearwater Community Sailing Center in 2009. More details and a complete list of winners are available at www.clwyc.org

David Billing, Regatta Chairman
R. Fairlie Brinkley, Principal Race Officer
Past Commodores,
Clearwater Yacht Club