

2010-2011 SAISA Singlehanded Championship for the Cressy Trophy

The 2010-2011 High School Singlehanded District Championship was held on September 25th and 26th. It was co-hosted by the South Atlantic Interscholastic Sailing Association (SAISA) and St. Petersburg Yacht Club. In every race, there was intense competition between the leading sailors in each division. In the end, only two points separated the top two competitors in the full rig division, and four points separated the top two competitors in the radial division.

While fifty-five lasers from twenty-six southeastern high schools were racing for the six invitations to sail in the National Championship for the Cressy Trophy, more than a hundred parents, advisors, coaches and other interested spectators viewed the event from the Municipal Pier. The Interscholastic Sailing Association High School Singlehanded National Championship for the Cressy Trophy will be sailed at St. Petersburg on October 30th and 31st; the competitors will be the winners the seven district championships from around the country.

The Cressy Trophy, named in honor of Morton Starr Cressy, Jr, a graduate of the US Naval Academy and avid racing sailor, has been recognized since 1990 as the ISSA National High School Single-handed Championship. It is the highest award in high school single-handed laser sailing in the United States.

Despite a forecast that included rain and thunderstorms, both Saturday and Sunday turned out to be sunny and beautiful. On Saturday, winds from the east at eight to ten knots were perfect conditions for the lasers. On Sunday, the winds were lighter but very sailable until around 1:00 when every bit of wind left the bay and the thirteenth race for radials had to be abandoned. Over the two days of racing, the full rigs managed to complete fourteen races and the radials wound up with twelve completed races.

The top three competitors from each class who qualified to compete in the National Championship are: laser full rigs; 1. Christopher Stocke - Sarasota High School, 2. William Bailey - Antilles High School, and 3. Michael Zonnenberg - H.B. Plant High School; in laser radials; 1. Ericka Reineke - St. Thomas Aquinas High School, 2. Ian Barrows - Antilles High School, 3. Erik Weiss - St. Thomas Aquinas.

We wish them all luck in this prestigious event.

<Carole Bardes/PRO>