

2005 Formula windsurfing world championship regatta report



by **Steve Bodner USA 4**

5 days of racing on Port Phillip Bay outside Melbourne, Australia saw 87 men and 10 women from 25 countries compete in 7 races for the 2005 Formula Windsurfing Championship. The event was won by Frenchman, Antoine Albeau and Australian, Allison Shreeves.

After a brief warm up regatta at the Australian Formula Championship and figuring out what side of the road to drive on and where to go on the course, I was ready for the big event. The United States and US Virgin Island were represented by 7 competitors.



USA 4 Steve Bodner sailing in front of Melbourne city front



Elwood Sailing Center



First of many starts in light wind



General recall

The big decision was not to split the fleet in qualifying rounds with no gold/silver fleets to follow. The first day of the event saw a 5-12 knot patchy breeze and racing near the shore. 2 races were run with the fleet spread out-most not planning off the starting line!

The breeze finally arrived at the end of the 2nd day with a 15-18k breeze. The men's fleet had 4 general recalls before finally starting. In a big fleet, results could come randomly or with a twist of luck. I was improving, finishing in the mid fleet while Seth, Devon and Jimmy were all in the top 10. Meanwhile, top ranked Buzianis and Pritchard sat in 40th and 28th place respectively.



General recall



sailing upwind in light onshore breeze



2005/2006 North Race Sails

On the 3rd day of the event, a big front came through with strong northerlies gusting (5-25k) from the Melbourne city front. The men's fleet got 2 races in before the wind dropped and the RC called it for the day. Meanwhile several competitors got chucked from the first day by sailing through the no boating zone in front of the club.



Another General recall



rigging on shore



thanks for the photos-
Belly!



no room for a sloppy rounding here

The wind arrived late again on the 4th day. After 4 attempts and several boards black flagged, a race was attempted then abandoned as the fleet approached the finish to find no wind and drifting conditions. Race 6 was rerun at 7:30 in the evening (- those who had been called over in the previous attempts to start the earlier race) in a 15-18k building breeze.

Throughout the regatta, several of the top ranked sailors were carrying GPS units and after racing downloaded their tracks to a GPS replay system on the web. Although still in development, this idea could generate more visibility and interest in windsurf racing.

On the final day of the event, the breeze arrived in a big way- with 30-45 mph gust and a building shore-break. With a 4 pm deadline, the RC started the race with just a few minutes to spare with 30-40 competitors. I used this race as my drop when my outhaul line let loose in 12' swell just before the start. Amazingly, Albeau won the race and the regatta with broken harness line in the 2nd upwind of the race.

You can find a more detailed regatta report on my site at www.stevebodner.com as well as results at www.sailmebourne.com and www.formulawindsurfing.org



more wind on the line for wednesday's start



the wind arrives and it arrives big

The American representatives fared well with 3 professional sailors in the top 10. Results:

1. Antoine Albeau FRA 192
2. Wojtek Brzozowski POL10
3. Gonzola Costa Hovel ARG3
- 4. Jimmy Diaz ISV 11**
5. Peter Bijl NED0
6. Ross Williams GBR83
7. Julian Quentel FRA 421
- 8. Devon Boulon ISV1**
9. Jesper Vesterston DEN111
- 10. Seth Besse USA64**
- 21. Kevin Prichard USA3**
- 34. Micah Buzianis USA34**
- 51. Steve Bodner USA4**
- 87. Micahel Porter ISV2**



some small chop on the course!



the shorebreak was painful for some

Thanks for those people and sponsors who helped me out in this regatta and throughout the 2005 season: The Belvedere Cove Sailing Foundation, North Sails, Mike Zajicek, Steve Sylvester, Dave Kashy, Alan Prussia, Dave Lasilla, and others...



check out the shore break behind the winner



some say formula boards are too big!