

International 29er Class Association

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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2007 29er Worlds – Female Domination?

The 2007th edition of the 29er Worlds in San Isidro, Argentina, is preparing to name a new champion – will this be a repeat with 3 women skippers in a row? Such is the precedent set by Jacqui Bonnitcho (AUS) and Silja Lehtinen (FIN), both females who dominated in the winds of San Francisco Bay (2005) and Weymouth, England (2006).

Certainly there are several top female skippers to vie for the title on the registration list including Adela Deschamps (ARG) who just finished 2nd in the pre-worlds regatta held over the past several days. All in all, there are 10 female skippers registered for the Worlds. However, there is formidable competition from among the 52 registrants representing 12 nations with many males ready to upset the precedent.

With the 29er named as the ISAF Youth World doublehanded boat for the 2007 & 2008 ISAF Youth Worlds, many youth teams are in attendance to practice their skills including a large contingent of British sailors.

33 teams tuned their rigs and tested the shallow waters of the Rio de la Plata off Buenos Aires. Winds for the Pre-Worlds/South American Championships began light in 8-10 knots but served up 22+ for the final days racing. Local sailors Pepe Bettini and Matias Keller of ARG won the South American Championships 10 points in front of Adela Deschamps and Juan de la Fuente, also of Argentina. Shallow sand bars and flat water make the sailing fun but challenging and will be a good test for the competitors when the Worlds begin.

North America is represented with 5 teams: Ian Andrewes/Campbell Rivers; Emily Dellenbaugh/Briana Provanha; Alain Huggler/Eric Aakhus; Judge Ryan/Hans Henken and Michelle Strelbel/Rachael Short.

Registration and measurement are currently taking place with formal racing to begin Sunday, January 21.

For more information, go to: www.29er.org or www.29erworlds2007.com.ar