

Buttner Reclaims New England Regional Top Spot

July 27, 2008

Drew Buttner showed great speed and strength capturing another title at Wequaquet Lake in the 2nd New England Regional Championship of 2008. After racing in an oncoming Southwesterly on Saturday Bill Brangiforte earned the lead after the completion of the first day (5 races) with Buttner and John Skrzypiec were close behind. After 1 throw-out, Brangiforte held a 1 point lead over Buttner and Skrzypiec going into day 2 with UNH sailor Kevin Baruchian in 4th and Andy David of Franklin, MA in 5th place.

On Day 2 the winds were up early. The wind was strong out of the Southwest, which had Buttner chomping at the bit. In the first race of Day 2, #6 for the regatta, found Skrzypiec in the lead at the first windward mark with Buttner and Baruchian close behind. While reaching to the jibe mark, Buttner called ahead to Skrzypiec and said, "John, look back, he's swimming after his boat" in reference to Brangiforte, who death-rolled after rounding the top mark in approximately 7th place. Skrzypiec was able to hold off Buttner until about 30 yards from the 2nd windward mark where he missed 1 shift, which let Buttner take the lead and Scott Greenbaum jump into second. Buttner went on to win Race #6, Greenbaum 2nd, Skrzypiec 3rd, Baruchian 4th and Brangiforte came back to 10th, which was his throw-out for the regatta.

Race #7 was a great battle between Brangiforte and Buttner with Skrzypiec a few places back. In the end, Buttner showed his strength and was able to grind out a victory as he passed Brangiforte on the last leg to the finish. Skrzypiec gambled on the last leg to hopefully close the gap to stay close for the overall, but lost 4 boats to the finish and wound up 10th for the race, Baruchian was 4th and Greenbaum 5th.

Race #8, the final race of the series was won by Skrzypiec; however, did not change the overall standings as Buttner chased him closely around the course to finish 2nd and capture the Championship. Brangiforte finished 5th in the final race to take 2nd place honors. Rounding out the top 5 was Baruchian 4th and Greenbaum 5th.

A special honor and presentation was made by the host, Wequaquet Lake Yacht Club, in memory and honor of Phil Brangiforte, a long time competitor and great friend to the Club as well as the Sunfish Class as a whole. He will be dearly missed. In his memory, a new perpetual award will be displayed at the Club with the names of all the past and future winners of the New England Regional Championship at Wequaquet Lake. — Submitted By J.S.