



St. Francis Yacht Club

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. FRANCIS YACHT CLUB TO HOST 2005 INTERNATIONAL 470 CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Olympic-Class Regatta To Feature World's Top Sailors In Countdown to Beijing 2008

San Francisco, CA – 198 sailors from 27 countries will gather on San Francisco Bay from August 19th – 28th for the 2005 International 470 Class World Championships hosted by the St. Francis Yacht Club.

Racing begins Monday, August 22 and will showcase some of the world's best male and female small boat sailors including past and present world champions as well as 2004 Olympic Silver Medalists Nick Rogers and Joe Glan (BRITAIN) and Natalia Via-Dufresne and Sandra Azon (SPAIN). The course will be set on San Francisco Bay along the city front from Alcatraz to Crissy Field. With up to six races daily through Sunday, August 28th, there will be great viewing from Marina Green and Crissy Field.

“A fleet of 470's running downwind reaching speeds of 15 knots in the waves of SF Bay will be a truly spectacular sight,” commented Doug Holm, Commodore of the St. Francis Yacht Club. “The 470 is one of the most exciting of the Olympic classes and the St. Francis is proud to be hosting such a strong field of competitors.”

Course types will be Olympic courses applicable to 470s such as the Olympic trapezoid (with outer loop or with inner loop). The length of the course will be adapted according to wind strength so that each individual race will last approximately sixty to seventy minutes and involve beating to windward, reaching, running and a final mad spinnaker reach to the finish line. The regatta will consist of a qualifying series and a final series for each category (men and women) with all boats taking part in the two series. For the final series, crews will be divided into Gold, Silver, and Bronze fleets according to the scores from the qualifying series.

Local experience would indicate that it will be a test of pure boat speed and boat handling, with most boats heading for the favored left-hand side of the course and out of the flooding current. However with 20 knots of wind on average, superb boat handling and team work will be just as important as tactics.

“For a non-European venue Worlds, a fleet of over 200 Athletes from 28 Nations is outstanding,” said Darren Dunkley-Smith, President International 470 Class Association. “The fleet includes all the contenders and there are many; medalists from Athens, past and present World Champions, the veterans and hungry young ‘Super Juniors,’” he continued.

Early results this year would indicate a long deserved title win for teams from Israel. Israel’s Gideon Kliger & Udi Gal have had a great year with top 5 placements in all the major events including a win in the French Hyeres Regatta and a close second in the European Championship. Israel’s women’s team of Nike Kornecki & Vered Buskila have also pushed top results all year and also sit just second on the World Ranking list. Nike & Vered were an unlucky 3rd in the 2004 Worlds and generally sail well in the heavier conditions so SF Bay will be to their liking.

American hopes lay with Michael Anderson-Mitterling & David Hughes in the men’s division. Anderson-Mitterling and Hughes came from no-where to win the famous Kiel Week regatta this year and becoming only the 2nd only USA boat to do so. Amanda Clark & Sarah Mergenthaler are the most experienced of the US Women and filed a 7th in the Women’s Kiel regatta of 2005. Local competitors include Molly Carapiet, Carisa Harris and Isabelle Kinsolving.

Athens Silver medalists Nick Rogers & Joe Glanfield returned to 470 sailing for the 2005 European Championships in June and immediately started out where they had left off. They will be the favourites for 2005 glory but there’s still 12 -15 Men’s teams that can spoil their plans. Nick and Joe will be up against past World Champion Gildas Philippe and of course the Australian Reigning World Champions Nathan Wilmot & Malcolm Page.

About the 470

Note to reporters and editors: The 470 World Championships will offer excellent visual and audio opportunities. Please contact the StFYC Race Office or Scott Marx for further information about the regatta, pictures, or to facilitate on-water press coverage.

The 470 is a two-person dinghy which has been an Olympic Class since 1976. The planing fiberglass hull is equipped with spinnaker and a single trapeze, demanding real teamwork. Originally designed in 1963 to introduce families to sailing, the 470 is an ideal boat for all levels of sailors. However, to race competitively every aspect of sailing needs to be mastered to perfection.

About the St. Francis Yacht Club

Founded in 1927, St. Francis Yacht Club, within view of the Golden Gate Bridge, is a year-round host of over 40 regattas on San Francisco Bay including the annual Rolex Big Boat Series each September. The club was host to the 2000 US Olympic Sailing Trials, the 2004 US Windsurfing Nationals and continues to host World and National Championships at all levels.

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