



Howie Hamlin's 18ft skiff was the only one that stayed upright to win Tuesday's race

NESPRESSO® *International*
18 Skiff
Regatta
 St. Francis Yacht Club

San Francisco, Calif. Aug. 27-Sept. 1, 2012

Tuesday's weather: Wind 25k W; high temp. 68F.
 Wednesday's forecast: Wind 17k WNW; high temp. 67F.

Aug. 28, 2012

Hamlin wins as rivals all flop; 2nd race called

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.

The last boat standing---literally, the only one that stayed upright---won Day 2 of the Nespresso International 18 Skiff Regatta Tuesday, defending itself against all the ferocity that San Francisco Bay had to offer on an otherwise cool but cloudless sunny day at the beach hosted by the St. Francis Yacht Club.

That's what it took for the USA's six-time winner Howard Hamlin with crew Matt Noble and Matt McKinlay to collect a runaway win---no easy task when all of the other 17 delicate little skiffs were flipping and flopping like pancakes in the fierce conditions that measured 25 knots of wind



Hometown entry Jonny Goldsberry drives CT Sailbattens pass John Winning's fallen Yandoo at the Anita Rock buoy

sweeping them all into a meanly opposing ebb tide.

New Zealand's Alex Vallings, whose C-Tech swept Monday's opening two races with an amazing comeback from last place, finished third to retain his overall lead but said, "We were down three times."

Hamlin's win jumped him from fifth to second place, while Jonathan Witty's Australian Lumix followed Monday's pair of seconds with a seventh to sit in third place sailing with a crew of James Hozack and a late substitute, Mike Martin, filling in for the ailing Marcus Ashley-Jones.

Martin, returning to the waters where he won the 505 class worlds three years ago and four International 18 Regattas with Hamlin earlier, is now director of umpiring and rules administration for the America's Cup here. No telling how the AC45s would have handled Tuesday's conditions---or how the AC72s will later on---but it should be interesting.

When Ashley-Jones was unable to sail, Witty phoned Martin.

"He called me an hour before the start," Martin said.

But he had to sail only one race. The second was cancelled after the race committee polled the fleet to see if they'd rather call it a day. Only Vallings and Witty voted to continue. Hamlin was willing to go with the majority, although it was the first time in the 11 years of the event that such conditions canceled any racing.

"Whatever they wanted to do was alright with me," Hamlin said. "It was easily 25 [knots], but the ebb [tide] makes it like 28."

His secret to survival and success: "You



Competitors added the new title sponsor's logo to their sails



Staying upright in 25 knots against an ebb tide isn't easy

Downloadable high-res photo gallery

Past winning teams

2002 General Electric (Howard Hamlin, Mike Martin, Andy Zinn)

2003 RMW Marine (Rob Greenlagh, Dan Johnson, Sam Gardner)

2004 Computer Assoc. (John Winning, Euan McNicol, Anthony Young)

2005 Pegasus (Howard Hamlin, Mike Martin, Trent Barnabas)

2006 Pegasus (Howard Hamlin, Mike Martin, Trent Barnabas)

2007 Pegasus (Howard Hamlin, Mike

gotta keep going fast. You can't take it easy. You gotta stay really focused. Once you go down it's so hard to get up that it takes something out of you."

At times, there were more boats down than upright near the windward mark.

Hamlin started well in the three-lap windward-leeward race but worked his way up through survival. Australian veteran John Winning had a strong early lead at the first mark but flipped badly trying to double jibe to avoid an encounter with Vallings. By the time he recovered all the other boats had passed---but he still finished fourth, which says something about the degree of carnage.

Then Vallings and Witty crashed to put Hamlin into the lead, from where he went on to win by 2 minutes 50 seconds.

Racing continues with two races Wednesday starting at 1 p.m., followed by a lay day Thursday before two more races late Friday climaxed by the traditional 7 1/2-mile Ronstan Bridge to Bridge Race from the Golden Gate to the Oakland Bay late Friday afternoon. The last two of 10 races will be Saturday.

Nespresso began their association with the sport of sailing as co-sponsor of Team Alinghi for the 32nd America's Cup campaign between 2004-2007, as well as being the Official Coffee to the event. In 2010, Nespresso and Wally, the world leader in yachting innovation, launched the Nespresso Cup, an international regatta exclusively for the Wally Class in Portofino, Italy, bringing together some of the world's most respected world-class sailors, to deliver one of the most aesthetically pleasing sailing regattas. America's Cup sailors Loick Peyron, Paul Cayard, Francesco De Angelis, Jochen Schuemann were the Nespresso Cup Ambassadors, adding their own individual style to this unique event. *Nespresso* is now Proud Sponsor of Emirates Team New Zealand, Challenger for the 34th America's Cup to be held in San Francisco in 2013. More information on *Nespresso* on www.nespresso.com

Martin, Paul Allen)

2008 Gotta Love It (Seve Jarvin, Sam Newton, Tom Clout)

2009 Harken (Howard Hamlin, Matt Noble, Paul Allen)

2010 Thurlow Fisher (Michael Coxon, Aaron Links, Trent Barnabas)

2011 CST Composites (Howard Hamlin, Matt Noble, Paul Allen)

The leaders

(18 boats; after 3 of 10 races)

1. C-Tech, Alex Vallings/Chris Kitchen/Josh McCormack, New Zealand, 1-1-3, 5 points.
2. CST Composites, Howard Hamlin/Matt Noble/Matt McKinlay, USA, 4-5-1, 10.
3. Lumix, Jonathan Witty/James Hozack/ Marcus Ashley-Jones, Australia, 2-2-7, 11.
4. Yandoo, John Winning/David Gibson/Andrew Hay, Australia, 5-3-4, 12.
5. Mounts Bay W.A., Grant Rollerson/Justin Healey/Marco Schurman, Australia, 3-4-6, 13.

[Complete standings](#)

[2012 high-res photo gallery](#)

[Notice of race \(including daily schedule\)](#)

[St. Francis Yacht Club](#)

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