

### **Seiko 49er North Americans – Day 1**

KINGSTON, ON With a forecast for northerly winds and T-storms, things didn't look good for the Seiko 49er North Americans. However, with some patience and good timing, the RC was able to get in 1 race in a dying 5 knot breeze. Conditions were light and shifty, however the fleet of 18 was able to sail the course in just over 31 minutes. Leading the regatta, hot off a second place at the 2009 Canada Summer Games, are Mike Blumer / Peter Soosalu, while Rob Dale / Carl Horrocks are in second, and in fourth place is Olympian Gordon Cook. Racing continues through Thursday, with 24 more races on the schedule. The event is being held in conjunction with the 29er North Americans as well.

### **Seiko 49er North Americans – Day 2**

KINGSTON, ON Today's start was scheduled for noon, local-time. A few minutes after noon, the warning signal for the series' second race went off. With a clean start, the boats were off. Canadian Sailing Team members Bill Gooderham / Ian Hogan won the first race in a shifty 7 knot breeze, while series leaders Mike Blumer / Peter Soosalu finished second – but retiring promptly thereafter. However, the young crew bounced back with a bullet in the day's second race, in similar conditions.

Former CST member Rob Dale, sailing with American Carl Horrocks, came on strong, winning the next two races before the breeze built to a 12 knot thermal out of the southwest. With a close series, Bill Gooderham / Ian Hogan let loose and boat-speeded the 17-boat fleet for a final two bullets, opening the series wide-open, while the young leaders fell back as the breeze filled-in.

Nineteen races remain over the next three days, with racing wrapping up on Thursday. The forecast is for sunny skies and nice wind before a cold front arrives later in the week.

### **Seiko 49er North Americans – Day 3**

KINGSTON, ON Conditions on Tuesday were warm, sunny and windy with a classic Kingston thermal treating the sailors. Canadian Sailing Team members Billy Gooderham and Ian Hogan turned on the after-burners in the 15 knot breeze by posting four bullets in five races to take the overall series lead. Despite a capsize in the day's first race, the young team was able to bounce back and win the day.

The winds reached 20 knots at times with a growing swell, sometimes reaching in excess of 1 metre. Many boats had to return to harbour for repairs throughout the day. Gooderham / Hogan credit their success today to their experience at the 2009 49er Worlds in Lake Garda, Italy where winds can easily reach 25 knots on a daily basis.

### **Seiko 49er North Americans – Day 4**

KINGSTON, ON Wednesday was met with lighter and shifter winds from the north. With the top three boats only a few points from each other, racing was bound to be close. In the first race the top three boats finished 3, 2, 1 only to make things closer in the puffy and shifty conditions. The next three races proved equally challenging for all

crews with the gradient wind fighting the building thermal, often causing 30° shifts in either direction. In the end, Billy Gooderham and Ian Hogan won the day, posting a 3, 1, 3, 2, extending their lead over fellow CST members Matt Dubreucq and Trevor Parekh.

The series concludes Thursday with six watches up for grabs for the top three crews.

### **Seiko 49er North Americans – Day 5**

KINGSTON, ON - Billy Gooderham and Ian Hogan (CAN) held on to their lead today (owing much to mother nature) to become 2009 Seiko 49er North American Champions. They narrowly beat out the rival Canadian team of Matt Dubreucq and Trevor Parekh. Conditions Thursday did not permit any racing with a 2:30 PM drop-dead time for a warning signal.

The eighteen teams from five countries waited anxiously on the water as gradient and thermal breezes danced in circles around them. Just a few moments after 2 PM, race officer Ron Roubideau abandoned the races and sent sailors to shore for the awards ceremony. There, the three top teams received two Seiko watches each.

In the end, the regatta was won by Gooderham/Hogan (ranked 30th in the world) on their superior speed in heavy wind, scoring four bullets on day 3. The event was a success from a media, sponsorship, visibility and sailing perspective. A big thank you is also owed to Seiko Canada for their support of this year's event. The 2010 NA's will be in Miami January 14 - 16 at Miami YC, while CORK will play host to the 49er Canadians next year. Max Fraser and Dave Libenberg of Santa Cruz, CA won the 29er portion of the event.

Results: [http://www.cork.org/results\\_2009.html#](http://www.cork.org/results_2009.html#)



Photo: Luka Bartulovic <http://www.kalu.ca>