

Macias Nguema 2014

Race Report by "zero"

This was a short upwind race with a big island in the middle of the course. Fun stuff. The whole point of the race was to test the ability of the sailor to pick sides. Because of the island, once you pick a side you are committed till the end, no way to hop the island to the other side.

In this race the West side was giving a better angle and the East had higher wind pressure. One of the many things I learned on SOL is that usually "angle-is-better-than-pressure". So, about five hours before the start I checked the wind at the start and the wind at the finish and West was the clear winner as far as angle. Then I set a DC to start going west and went back to bed. When I woke up the boats were already racing for about 2 hours. I zoomed in on "zero" and noticed I had company, "rafa" was practically on top of my boat. I said "ha ha I have good company". I also notice that the majority of the other boats had chosen the East side and evidently they all were showing ahead of us on the leader board. The leader board can be deceiving, especially going up wind.

The next and last big decision in this race was to nail the tack, the only one tack needed for the West fleet, (the east fleet were going crazy tacking nonstop skirting the island). I think I nailed the spot to tack very well, no overshoot and no pinch needed to clear the cape four hours ahead of us. I thought that I tacked on a better spot than "rafa" and "sadersailing", but somehow they cleared the cape ahead of "zero". At the end it was gold to "rafa", silver to "sadersailing" two seconds back and "zero" five seconds after got the bronze. Well done boys!

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