

## Round the World Race – Leg 6      Fort Lauderdale – Southampton

This was a very complicated and interesting race as the wind never seemed to settle. Every other wx it was common to find significant changes so strategy had to be adjusted constantly.

Nevertheless during the first part of the race the general pattern was pretty much as expected. That was sailing somewhat parallel to the USA coast up to Canada and then across the Atlantic making a northbound arch.

This was what happened, even with many corrections were needed on the way, but everything changed when we met a big wind hole in the middle of the Atlantic. This stopped the leaders, those coming behind approached, and the whole fleet was close to having a total tie.

Big dilemma was if wind hole was to be rounded to the north or to the south. It took me several wx's to make a final decision because the analysis seemed to change after every wx. Finally I decided to go south which was a longer route but winds seemed more favorable down there.

At the beginning it looked as it was a wrong decision. My ranking went down to 120. But when I turned east it started to look better and better.

Then I had to fly over the fleet. Indeed IRL I traveled from Peru to Europe, so I flew over most of the fleet. I looked down through the window but it was covered so I couldn't spot anybody. Fortunately in the 12 hour flight there were no wx surprises so my dc's worked fine. I even improved from 99th to 44th while in the sky!

Once again on the ground my relative position against the boats coming from the north kept getting better. After a while I realized the race was among a few of us on the south. Dana and nacrr sailed very well and were in the best position. The last day of the race I slept a little less than them and I was able to pass them and get this win that I value very much for the difficult conditions we had to overcome.

Congrats to Dana and nacrr for a great race, any of us 3 could have won. Specially Dana for his first time on the podium.

Talking about the series I enjoyed it very much. It was great to be able to repeat the famous Steinlager race and appreciate how impressively offshore sailing has developed since then, not so long ago.

Finally big congrats to Rumskib for winning the overall race. Also to ITA for a great result and to everybody who took part in this very long and charming experience.

Rafa

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