

...strange to comment a race I won... this is what I remember.

I started the race in dc, 'cause in those days I really didn't have the time to follow, but in spite of a couple of mistakes I was able to reach Ceuta not far from ita, already leading thanks to a smart move in front of Almeria, I think, one of those they make him the recognized Prof he is...;)

Then was the time for the big decision: the open ocean or the coast of Africa? watching the wxs it looked like there was a narrow passage of good pressure between the coast and the high in front while the offshore route was not so clearly open to Fernando. Ita went first deciding to bet on the passage near the coast, I tacked too, but not yet sure between the options... the reasons being two:1) at that time I already had a couple of miles from ita so that following him I could not see any chance of an although imaginary chance of victory...and 2) the offshore route was more compatible with the short time I had to dedicate. And I went west. It turned out to be the right choice and I found myself with nacrr rounding Fernando with many miles over the followers, while the group of the "usual leaders" was stuck in a high along the coast.

Sailing south along the coast of Brazil the fleet started to spread and to get closer and closer, DIKKEHENK was able to pass me sailing more east: in front of Rio we all noticed a certain Joe Bannon, who was with the closer followers, making a "strange" move, gybing west.... Few days later that "strange" move turned out to be a very smart one and Bannon took the lead with something like 12 nm of advantage. In the meanwhile also Dingo, one of those stopped from the high along the coast of Africa, was getting closer...

And rafa, accurately not believing in a wx saying to gybe south, took the second place...it seemed to be gone, but then Bannon and rafa decided for a risky move not gybing south with the rest of us and the road to a podium seat was open again... I kept my boat southern of my closer opponents and I was mainly afraid of hmm position, southern than me, but I think he made a mistake wanting to stay too much south, betting on wx... At this point a bit of luck with the wxs opened for me the road to an unbelievable victory.

Thank You all, was a beautiful regatta, I enjoyed a lot the battles with nacrr (I'm very sorry near the end he could not follow properly) and DIKKE ;-) who were the closest to me , not to mention JoeBannon, who I didn't know but he was great and rafa, as always trying everything until the end, who kept me awake until the very end. Grazie! ;:))