

A beautiful duel.

I guess that the strategy was clear and the same for all of us: the wind gave a jump to the right toward the two end legs, turning decidedly forward and on the nose, then it need to arrive as soon as possible to the final tack to the Big Woody Island buoy and head to the low pin of finish line.

Easy to say!especially for us Europeans for whom it was night time.

So, more than the strategy, it was important to set the micro-strategy, I mean the conduct of legs and the choice of where to tack to the last layline.

Up to Duck Island honestly I decided to go straight to straight because I consider that the short distances of the legs did not pay particular routing of the rudder;

And so it was: At Duck Island we were pretty much on par, either those who had pulled straight and those who had operated continuously for max VMG.

Then began the close battle ..

The new grib high-definition WX turned out very amazing in these inshore races and canals waters. Already in the Leg1 I trained with (damn for jump an alarm and miss the DC for the last buoy) but it helped me to improve (in these cases) the conduct of the race. By setting the wind arrows density on maximum, it seemed like the win draw up itself on the water almost as IRL! You can appreciate the smallest changes in direction of the wind just like in real race, see the gusts, look at the influence of the coast and the smoothness of the shift. Wonderful!

So, in the stretch from Duck Island to Big Woody Island I searched the right channel to navigate faster towards the shift to the right. At first I luffed a little 'in max VMC and then I left to run the boat to the tack point. However, the micro-strategy has been to not arrive too soon to tacking for make the most of the shift to the right. Get too early meant tack with an angle too low and then, thanks to the high resolution of the grib, I took advantage of minimal movements to the left of the wind to slow down a little sometime and luff the boat toward the wind..... Funny, just like in real! Really I believe that no simulator and no router today can give us so much! Great job!

The concentration and the fun they kept me awake. And still we were in zero seconds: I, Winston, Dingo, rafa, Wolff, Lou, and so on how could you fall asleep!?

I chose the tack point to the final layline so I could have the mark of Big Woody Island between the two predictor lines (TWA and COG) on a cheer angle, and I skippered in COG to have it always at the center.

I think everyone has done different routes and yet very similar to each other as in the end we were still there, all in a matter of seconds.

But at the end Dingo was better than me for 3 seconds and I better than Sir Win of 1 second! Or so the server.....decided!

Bravo rafa too, very close, Lou, Wolff and everybody!

What a tightened battle! Thank you all for your racing. I really enjoyed.

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