

Corporate Open Gold Championship 2016 – Race 2

Race Report by “zero”

This was my kind of race; 4 hours of island’s zig-zag on a fast F-18 catamaran. The timing also was in my favor; started at 2PM and finished at 6PM on my time zone. This was a fast race, but it was not a sprint. It had several tacks and gybes, as well as ever changing wind speeds and wind directions. It had all.

We all like to say that “we cover” some other boat in order to secure one’s position. But that is not quite true here on sailonline. In real life sailing we can tack in front of a competitor and block his/hers wind, or we can play well the zig-zag game to get to the next mark with right-of-way and force him/her an extra tack. But not in sailonline. Real life sailing is similar in a way to playing chess.

Sailonline is not chess, sailonline is more like Golf. There is absolutely nothing we can do to “block” someone else to pass you. Nothing. All we can do is to “send-command” at the right time; use the bumps on the polar curve well, count the hops to cut those corners at exactly the right time, and most important of all, play the wind shifts.

Every “Send-Command” counts. Just like Golf, every “stroke” counts. None of us can get to the finish line and claim that one of the “Send-Commands” was a mistake and needs to be “discounted” from our time. Hence, the winner is always the one who makes fewer mistakes. Every one of us make mistakes during the race. If you think that “... if I only hadn’t gybe or tacked two seconds sooner, I would had won...” or some variations of that line, you are wrong. Because, if you hadn’t made your mistake, someone else would also haven’t made his/her mistake, and everything would even out.

I did two practice races the day before, and I was firing in all cylinders. My corners were all perfect, I zigged and zagged to avoid the trough of the polar curve, and finally the leg from Fiddle Reef Light to Trial Island Light, I went for angle instead of pressure. Zig-zagging near the coast, including going West of Trial Island. All well until the very end, when I did my one (and only) mistake of the race, I over extended my final gybe to lay the finish line.

I thought I had lost the race there to Kenza, but, to my surprise he also over extended his gybe and over shoot the finish line, dropping from 1st and “zero” was back on top at the finish. I am sure he is sad; but remember, as in Golf, we all make mistakes. He did his, I did mine. Sailing at the top of the first page of the leaderboard, sometimes all it takes to lose is one single mistake.

Besides Kenza, hats off to Peskasail leading for a long period, Atlet and Bonkhoot putting a lot of pressure too. At the end my heartbeat was going thru the roof because of you. I wouldn’t want any other way. 😊😊😊

As always, my sincere thanks to all the volunteers that make all this happen.

Antonio “zero”