

At the start Newport - Bermuda looked very much like a rerun of Sail Fiji. At first escape the light winds near the coast, then reach across the steady breeze until the finish. The biggest difference is the warm front sitting south of Bermuda, but we are scheduled to make the finish first.

The start is a bit problematic. I mostly treat this as a drag race for the most breeze, but as this happens in the 'flat' part of the polar, the fleet spreads out on a long straight line, and I'm sitting right in the middle. This is not my normal strategy, but I let it play out.

Saturday morning it's obvious that nacrr (SW of me) has flat out beaten me on speed. DIKKEHENK (NE of me) is also looking strong. We are now in the reaching portion and sailing the rhumb line. It's not clear if I can even make a move.

Later in the day it becomes clear the the warm front is up to no good. Winds on the other side are southerly, hence pushing a bit more south seems prudent. At 2130 I cross behind nacrr, now I hold the south edge of the fleet. Overnight I create a 2nm gap.

The 0430 wx on Sunday morning is critical. Getting up early does pay off, I need to make a big turn south. This puts me in a comfortable lead. The fleet needs to tackle the front and boats start to tack around 1000. Normally I cringe at the prospect of tacking right before the wx, but here it serves to neatly line up the fleet. What remains is a formality. I take the win ahead of nacrr and DIKKEHENK. Great sailing from both of you, and thanks all for racing!

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