

SANTA MONICA NUEVA REGATTA 2022 – report by GREATSKUA

With its new route this year's race was even more challenging than previous one, with different options from the very beginning.

And different options were taken by solers since the start, with a strong group heading east, and the other heading west. According with Qt west route was faster with a clear advantage of more than one hour arriving to Madeira.

I took that option after some doubts and finally went ok, arriving Madeira in the front pack, but out of podium places. The way down was better for me and after gybing SW, when we arrived to El Hierro, I was in a surprising leadership, with Pit and rafa close, but with a clear advantage.

From there we all headed north of Tenerife island, with some boats taking a southern option, but a high pressure was blocking the way there, and all goes quiet until we reached Lanzarote, and even when we headed north to La Alegranza.

Pit was closer but I had still a nice lead, so when we round La Alegranza and went to sleep a bit in a key night, although I saw before go bed that he was doing a more aggressive course than mine, I didn't give to that much importance, and that was the big mistake of my race.

There we have also two options, east or west of Lanzarote heading south to Fuerteventura, and rafa WR and many others took that option, faster at the first leg, but not later, when many gybes to get east of Fuerteventura made them to lose a lot of time. In our side, Pit gybed first and when we met again my advantage was gone, and both boats were just one, even at max zoom.

When I woke up before we arrived close to the island, to check all was ok and go to sleep again, I hopefully realized my next dc was on a course that hit the land, so I made some changes still half asleep, and those changes gave Pit a bit of advantage, but we were still very close, so after rounding the south tip of Fuerteventura we headed W-SW waiting the evolution of a high pressure system that was in the middle of our way to Santa Monica. I tried to get windward but Pit kept his position and when we finally tacked towards the finish line he kept small advantage and got a win that it could have been mine, in one of the best fights I ever have had sailing in SOL.

Skua