



60th Lightning Midwinter Championship

Coral Reef Yacht Club

Miami, Florida

Daily Race Recaps by Doug Wake

Race Day 1: 3-28-18

The ILCA Midwinter championship opened with classic Biscayne Bay sailing, featuring 16-20 knots of breeze, chop, and three spectacular races. David Starck, sailing with his brother Tom and Jenna Probst won races 2 and 3 to take the series lead. This team is not, by any means, pulling away, as the top 6 teams are all sitting within 4 points of the lead.

In race one, Jody Starck started mid-line, punched out off the line, and claimed a lead at the first mark which she would not relinquish. Starck was joined by Jared Drake and Max Balanevsky, who together, used their height to lever the boat and find top rate upwind speed.

The second race was much like the first, as David Starck and team started just up from the pin and went fast to the left side, eventually crossing the fleet and leading into mark 1. This team would not look back for the rest of the race and took a commanding victory.

Race three was nearly the exact same story, with Dave Starck and team extending off the start, claiming an early lead, and not letting anyone past.

After the first day, Jody Starck sits in second place with 11 points, and Tito Gonzalez lead a group of three teams with 12 points, including Javier Conte and Ched Proctor.

Teams are expecting 14-16 knots of breeze to allow for three races tomorrow.

[Day 1 Video Recap](#)

Race Day 2: 3-29-18

In a stark repeat of conditions from day 1, day 2 of the ILCA Midwinter Championship completed 3 competitive races to bring the series total to 6, and see the leaders extend slightly. David Starck with brother Tom and Jenna Probst scored a 2,2,1 on the day to create 3 points of separation between themselves and the second place Argentine team of Conte, Alsogaray, and Salerno. Tito Gonzalez moved into third place outright.

In race one, Javier Conte started pin third and used his upwind speed to lead at the first windward mark. He and his team extended on the run and picked up their first of two race wins on the day.

In race two, Conte again found favorable shift on the left side of the course and used exceptional downwind speed to pull away from the fleet and close David Starck's lead to one point.

It was Starck, however, who claimed race three, and with it, the series lead. Ched Proctor took an early lead, and Javier Conte also found moments at the front, but Starck put the moves on Conte at the top of the second beat and maintained this lead on the run.

Slightly lighter breeze is forecasted for tomorrow, but with 2-3 races scheduled, anything may still happen with a tight fleet at the top and competitive racing.

[Day 2 Video Recap](#)

Race Day 3: 3-30-18

Teams found lighter conditions for the final two races of the 2018 Lightning Midwinter Championship and Southern Circuit. David Starck led into the day, but had Javier Conte right on his heels. Conte, however, took a 1 point advantage in the Southern Circuit to the final day of racing.

In race one, Steve Kirkpatrick found his form in light air to take a race win, his first in Miami. David Starck claimed a close second, with Conte scoring a 4. With this, Starck built enough of a points advantage that he would need to sail his throwout in the final race, and Conte would need to win. This scenario would nearly come true with the pressure on for the final race.

Conte started in the middle of the line while Starck was closer to the boat, and the teams split on the first beat. The Argentines protected the middle-right to lead at the windward mark, and Starck sailed his worst beat of the regatta and found himself outside the top 10. While Conte led at the leeward mark, Tito Gonzalez found his way around the Argentines on the second beat and held on until the finish. Starck ended up sailing a 15, but as Conte had not won the race, Starck maintained his lead in the Midwinter Championship and finished as the victor. Along with his team of brother Tom Starck and Jenna Probst, the Buffalo, NY natives became the first lightning team to beat Conte in a regatta.

While Starck had won the battle for the Midwinter championship, it was again Conte who emerged victorious in the 'war' that was the ILCA Southern Circuit. The Argentine team scored a 7 as their throwout over a 14 race series compiled through this year's Winter and Midwinter Championships. Starck finished the Circuit in second, with Tito Gonzalez in third, Ched Proctor in fourth, and Steve Kirkpatrick in fifth.

Southern Circuit results pdf: <http://lightningclass.org/> in result section

Thank you to the ILCA Southern Circuit's principal sponsors:

