

South American Championship Yacht Club Peruano

La Punta, Callao – Peru
November 19-23, 2019



Two weeks have passed since the Lightning South American Championship held in La Punta, but memories of an extremely fun event and first-class organization provided by the hosts are still fresh.

We arrived in Lima on Sunday 17th November early in the morning, and headed straight to the Yacht Club Peruano, where we were welcomed by our Peruvian friends, who were always attentive to our needs. We tuned our boat and went out sailing in order to have a heads up on prevailing conditions for the races. From day one we noticed we would race with light breeze and very challenging conditions.

Race day # 1: Clear skies prevailed during the first day race, with very light wind conditions (4-6 kts). Wind direction was stable, and we had no major wind direction changes during the day. Conditions were very challenging; on windward legs there was a bit more breeze on the right side. Boats on the right side had marginal gains over the boats on the left. Downwind legs were very tricky, as the fleet was searching for any small puffs that could help the boats make it to the leeward mark. Boats were sailing at 90° TWA on the downwind legs and searching for wind pressure.

At the end of the day, our results were 5-6-1, occupying the second place. We closed the day winning the last race, but Juan Santos, Leonardo Santos and María José Borrás from Ecuador were six points ahead. We knew we had to sail three solid regattas on day # 2 if we wanted to keep our options for the podium.



Race day # 2: Once again, we had clear skies since early morning. Wind speed and direction prevailed, and conditions were very similar to day # 1. Wind pressure was predominant on the right side of the beats. On the runs, there was more wind on the right side of the course, however on the last race of the day, during the last run, Team Davidson from USA, Team Solá and Team Santos from Ecuador managed to grab consistent wind pressure on the left and were able to pass many boats that were positioned on the center and the right of the course. Team Davidson won the last race of the day, followed by Team Solá, Team Vélez and Team Santos.



Our results for the day were 4-3-3, which placed us in the lead, followed closely by Team Santos from Ecuador, Team Davidson from USA, Team Cloos from Argentina and Team Perez from Chile. There was a nine-point difference between us at the lead and the fifth place held by Team Perez from Chile, so the final race day could change results dramatically.

Race day # 3: The day started with a nice cool breeze. We went out on the water at 1100 hrs, wind direction was about 20° to the left when compared to previous days. Wind speed was around 10-12 kts. We noticed more wind pressure on the left side of the beat and decided to protect the left side in order to catch incoming puffs. First race. We started on the middle of the starting line, while Team

Santos and Team Davidson started on the right side of the line. Both teams tacked and headed to the right side of the course, while we decided to protect the left side. We were able to catch most of incoming puffs and tacked about 15 boat lengths before the lay line. Our strategy paid off, as we were able to reach the windward mark in third place, ahead of Team Santos and Team Davidson. We protected our position during the rest of the race and finished in 4th place. We knew we had to achieve a top 3 regatta on race no. 8 in order to become South American Champions.

Race 8 started. Once again, we decided to protect the left side of the course, while contenders tried again on the right side. We caught most of the puffs incoming from the left and tacked before the lay line. We made it to the windward mark in second place. We managed to protect our position and finished in first place, as Team Mendoza from Perú who had won the race had been over the starting line. By then, we knew we had won the South American Championship. We celebrated on the water with our teammates.

The last race started with a big battle for the second place overall: whoever finished ahead of the other boat, between Team Santos and Team Davidson, would become South American Vice-Champion! Both Team Santos and Team Davidson battled until the very end of the race, while the rest of the fleet were able to watch a live match race between USA and ECU. In the end, Team Davidson prevailed.

During race week, we also had plenty events arranged by the hosts. It was very nice to taste Peruvian exquisite cuisine while chatting with fellow members of the class about past experiences and future races to come. We are looking forward to returning to La Punta to race with Lima's challenging conditions.

The award ceremony was held at the Yacht Club Peruano, where we had plenty of Pisco and Rum for everyone.

For us, this was a very special Championship, as it is our first international victory as a team, and Perú will always be a valuable place for us.

Thanks once again to our Peruvian friends, for making us feel like home.

Alfredo, Irene and Julio (Left to Right Below)



[Link to Complete Results](#)

[Link to Photos](#)