

TEAM VELA RACING WINS FIRST STOP OF CALIFORNIA DREAMIN’



CALIFORNIA DREAMIN’

ST FRANCIS YACHT CLUB, MARCH 9-10, 2019

FINAL RESULTS

Final Results	Skipper	POINTS	W-L RECORD	WIN %	WR	CREW
4	Ryan Seago	7	7	-	5	58% 36 Scott Ismail, Matthew Declercq, Chris Cyr
1	Nicole Breault	11	11	-	1	92% 40 Molly Carapiet, Karen Loutzenheiser, Hannah Burrough
2	Chris Nesbitt	9	9	-	3	75% 121 Drew Guay, Michael Nicoletti, Kara Voss
6	Liz Hjorth	5	5	-	7	42% 225 Steine Cacavas, Kevin Thomas, Karyn Jones
8	Marilyn Cassedy	1	1	-	11	8% 249 Owan Lahr, Alexa Cavaliere, Steven Moses
3	Bruce Stone	7	7	-	5	58% 262 Spencer Paulsen, Stephanie Wondolleck, Halsey Ric
5	Dominic Bove	6	6	-	6	50% 401 Cassedy Lynch, Isabelle Dumoulin, Nick Dugdald
7	Russel Long	2	2	-	10	17% n/a Jacob Kowalski, Jeff Holder, Jean-Philippe Prefot

The first stop of the annual California Dreamin’ Series, March 9-10 at St. Francis Yacht Club, had racers dreaming of the settled conditions classic to San Francisco Bay sailing. However, two days of rain, variable wind, squalls, lightning and squirrely current didn’t deter local match racing champion Nicole Breault and her team of Molly Carapiet, Karen Loutzenheiser and Hannah Burroughs. The four women, known as Vela Racing, bested the fleet of eight, scoring 11 bullets in 12 races – losing just once to

Breault's husband, Bruce Stone, and his team of Spencer Paulsen, Stephanie Wondolleck and Halsey Richartz, who finished third overall. Second place was nabbed by Chris Nesbitt, sailing with Drew Guay, Michael Nicoletti and Kara Voss.

"It was very challenging out there," said Breault, who's the top-ranked women's match racer in the United States. "The theme of this weekend was 'this is so weird,' which accounts for all the variables, the currents, the cross-currents. We've been sailing together for a long time and we're trying to gear up for the Nations Cup, coming here to the St. Francis on April 10-14. This was a great warm-up for us and lays a solid foundation for the year."

Stone credited his win over Breault and his Day 2 picket fence to "risk minimization," sailing away in the pre-starts as he observed the other competitors getting to the line too early in the flood tide. The strategy boosted him to a podium finish.

Principal Race Officer Jeff Zarwell was profuse in his thanks to the umpires, who hailed from throughout the West Coast and Canada, and the race management team who endured challenging mark sets in unpredictable currents caused by the freshwater run-off of recent rains coursing over the saltier flood tide. "We hadn't even gotten to max flood and it was already ebbing," he exclaimed on the second day, which delayed mark-setting for some of what turned out to be the final heats when the wind shifted and then died and lightning spiked across the Bay, putting an early end to racing.

America's Cup veteran Russell Long, who finished near the back of the pack, said the weekend's racing "got his adrenaline going" and praised the maneuverability and responsiveness of the Club's J/22s, compared to the keelboats he's accustomed to racing in the past. "Match racing has really evolved from when I used to do it," he said. "The game is more aggressive now than 30, 35 years ago. It's a pleasure to see the ability of some of these young people."

The California Dreamin' Series brings together eight teams from around the US to compete in a double round-robin format. The next stop will be at San Diego Yacht Club on October 5-6, 2019, followed by Long Beach Yacht Club on November 2-3, 2019.



Team Vela