



**INTERNATIONAL STAR CLASS YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION**

Mateusz Kusznierewicz & Dominik Zyczi (POL)  
2008 Star World Champions

09

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## ISCYRA Regatta Report

Sun Jul 29th, 2012 through Sat Aug 11th, 2012

**2012 Olympics**Interview with USA skipper Mark Mendelblatt after the medal raceReports by [sailingnews.ch](#):

**Day One - Race 1:** Xavier Rohart/Pierre-Alexis Ponsot FRA won race 1 of the Stars ahead of Peter O'Leary/David Burrows IRL and Papathanassiou/Tsotras GRE. Scheidt/Prada BRA passed Stanjek/Kleen GER and finished 4th.

**Day One - Race 2:** Luffing up at the finish line was just enough and Robert Scheidt/Bruno Prada BRA barely saved a few inches to defeat Percy/Simpson after a very close duel in the second race. With Kusznierewicz/Zyczi POL in third and Loof/Salminen SWE 4th, these two other favorites - all Starboat World Champions - followed behind. In the overall rankings after two races, Scheidt/Prada BRA lead by two points ahead of O'Leary/Burrows IRL and Percy/Simpson GBR.

**Report by [mysailing.com.au](#):**

Robert Scheidt took the first steps in his quest to add a fifth Olympic medal to his trophy cabinet, beating arch rival Iain Percy (GBR) in both races of the Star class on the opening day of Olympic sailing. He and crew Bruno Prada lead the competition on five points, well ahead of Percy and Andrew "Bart" Simpson who are fifth and eight points behind.

Scheidt already has two golds (Laser 1996 and 2000) and two silvers (Laser 2004 and Star 2008), while Percy has two golds from the Finn in 2000 and the Star in 2008. In the first race of the day, neither crew featured in the top three. Instead Xavier Rohart and Pierre-Alexis Ponsot (France) made a stunning comeback from 16th place at the top mark to win by 32 seconds from Peter O'Leary and David Burrows (Ireland) and Emilios Papathanasiou and Adonis Tsotras (Greece). A major wind shift caught the leaders out, allowing those who had gone the other way to benefit. Scheidt was fourth and Percy a distant 11th in the 16 boat field.

However, in the second race normal service was resumed, with Scheidt and Percy locked together for the whole race. Only seven seconds separated them at the first top mark, they went through the gate together, Scheidt led by eight seconds at the second top mark and both crews were given the same time at the finish, with Scheidt adjudged to have crossed the line first.

**Day Two: Race 3** - The third race of the Stars was again one of many position changes with Hamish Pepper/Jim Turner NZL on top at the end, followed by Melleby/Pedersen NOR and Percy/Simpson



Gold medalists Fredrik Loof and Max Salminen. Photo by [onEdition](#).

**Report by mysailing.com.au:** Iain Percy and Andrew "Bart" Simpson didn't win either race in the Star class today (Monday) but they go into the third day of competition tied at the top of the leaderboard and two points clear of arch rivals Robert Scheidt and Bruno Prada (BRA).

The Kiwis haven't had a lot to cheer about so far in the Olympic regatta, but Hamish Pepper and Jim Turner did their best to revive spirits by winning the first race after a brilliant last downwind run. Trailing Eivind Mellerby and Petter Pederson of Norway throughout the early stages, the Kiwis managed to slip past to win by 13 seconds. Percy and Simpson (GBR) were third only one second behind the Norwegians, while Scheidt and Prada had their worst race, finishing ninth.

But the Kiwis couldn't repeat in the second race of the day, dropping to 13th in the 16 boat fleet. Frederick Loof and Max Salminen of Sweden took the lead after the first beat to record a comfortable 30 second win over Percy and Simpson, with Mendelblatt and Fatih (USA) third. Again Scheidt struggled, finishing sixth.

After four of the scheduled 10 preliminary races, it is very tight at the top. Percy and Simpson share top spot with the Norwegians on 18 points, the Swedes are a point away on 19 and the Brazilians are on 20.

**Day Three, Races 4 and 5 - Report by mysailing.com.au:** Defending champions Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson of Great Britain are fighting tooth and nail with Robert Scheidt and Bruno Prada of Brazil. Today they won a race each and finished second in the other one.

In race one, it was Percy and Simpson who got the honours. The Brazilians led at the first mark, but Percy found a good wind shift to win comfortably by 50 seconds. Mateusz Kusznierewicz and Dominik Zycki of Poland were a distant third.

The tables were turned in race two, but this one was much closer. Scheidt and Prada were only sixth at the top mark, but worked their way back into the race and overtook on the last run to beat the Brits by a measly eight seconds. Frederik Loof and Max Salminen of Sweden were third.

With six races sailed, the teams can drop their worst performance, which leaves GBR on 10 points ((11),2,3,2,1,2) and Brazil on 14 (4,1, (9),6,2,1). The Swedes are third, a further three points back, and it looks as though these will be the medallists - but in what order?

Norway and Poland both have 29 points, USA has 30, Germany has 31 and the Kiwis have 32. Tomorrow is a rest day for the Star class.

**Lay day report by ISAF:** Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson (GBR) and Robert Scheidt and Bruno Prada (BRA) traded blows in the Star today with both crews winning a race and finishing second in the other.

With the discard coming into play the Brits have a four point lead at the top of the leader board over the Brazilians having put their 11th in Race 1 behind them to sail consistently. With a narrow advantage the Brits remain wary, "We would like to extend the gap. Four points is just two places in the medal race when the points are doubled. There are so many good people in the fleet. All we can do is

Access to them is Eivind Melleby and Petter Morland Pedersen (NOR), and Maciejus Maciejowicz and Dominik Zycki (POL) both tied on 29 points.

**Races seven and eight: report by mysailing.com.au:** London 2012 is the last time the Star class will compete at an Olympic Games, and it is fitting that it has been such a close and enthralling tussle. However on a very good day for British sailors in all classes, Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson have moved into gold medal position and only a miracle can now save Robert Scheidt and Bruno Prada of Brazil.

Percy and Simpson recorded a win and a second place, against the Brazilians' third and fifth, to stretch their lead to nine points with two qualifiers and the medal race remaining.

Nine points would not normally be insurmountable, but apart from their 11th (which is their drop) in the first race, the British pair has not been out of the top three all regatta. By contrast, Scheidt and Prada have dropped a 9th but also have 4th, 5th and 6th against their names.

As always, the racing was close today, with Percy/Simpson winning race seven by 10 seconds from the Poles, with Scheidt/Prada in third. Frederik Loof and Max Salminen (SWE) ran away with the second race, but there was only seven seconds between the British and Danish crews for the minor placings.

**Races 9 and 10 - report by mysailing.com.au:** Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson (GBR) look likely to win the Olympic Star class on Sunday after finishing the 10 preliminary races eight points ahead of Robert Scheidt and Bruno Prada (Brazil). This means that the Brazilians must put at least three other boats between them and the Englishmen if they are to win on a countback.

Both crews had a win today but Scheidt closed the gap by a single point as his other placing was a third, to Percy's fourth. The other medal prospect, and not out of contention for gold if Percy and Scheidt get carried away with match racing each other, is Frederik Loof and Max Salminen of Sweden, who are on 30 points. There is then a long gap back to the Norwegians who are on 53 and the Poles on 54.

**Medal race:** Sweden's Fredrik Loof and Max Salminen won the Star Medal Race to upset the favourites and take the gold medal in a thrilling finale.

Having trailed overnight leaders Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson (GBR) by 12 points ahead of the Medal Race the Swedes won by four seconds over Hamish Pepper and Jim Turner to overcome the Brits who finished eighth.

The Brits had to finish sixth or better to guarantee gold but in a tense final run Norway's Eivind Melleby and Petter Morland Pedersen, America's Brian Fatih and Mark Mendelblatt and Brazil's Robert Scheidt and Bruno Prada finished less than two seconds ahead of the Brits squeezing them into eighth and down into silver medal position. The Brazilians subsequently fell into bronze medal position.

The Swedes were worthy winners and sailed their own race from the start with only the bullet on their mind, Loof said, "It was a dream come true. We were happy for the silver but the gold came instead."

"We sailed 10 good races. There's a big luck element. We can't blame anyone but ourselves, but at the same time we were really proud."

Scheidt and Prada were the pre-race favourites and had mixed emotions picking up the bronze medal. Scheidt said, "I am a little sad losing a position but, at the same time, very happy to get a medal. We would have wanted a bit more."

## Star

Place	Boat	Skipper	Crew	Sail #:	Fleet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Medal Total	
1	8446	Loof Fredrik	Salminen Max	SWE	Bk	10.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	3.0	4.0	1.0	2.0	6.0	2	32
2	8458	Percy Iain	Simpson Andrew	GBR	SO	11.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	1.0	16	34
3	8456	SCHEIDT ROBERT	PRADA BRUNO	BRA	Gua	4.0	1.0	9.0	6.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	1.0	3.0	14	40
4	8459	Melleby Eivind	Pedersen Petter Morland	NOR	NOR	7.0	5.0	2.0	4.0	16.0	11.0	8.0	4.0	7.0	5.0	10	63
5	8464	PEPPER Hamish	Turner Jim	NZL	ISOL	15.0	7.0	1.0	13.0	6.0	5.0	9.0	8.0	8.0	9.0	4	70
6	8427	Stanjek Robert	Kleen Frithjof	GER	BF	6.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	4.0	6.0	17.0 [BFD]	11.0	9.0	4.0	6	70
7	8481	Mark Mendelblatt	Brian Fatih	USA	TaB	5.0	14.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	9.0	5.0	10.0	3.0	11.0	12	71
8	8447	Kusznierewicz Mateusz	Zycki Dominik	POL	ISOL	9.0	3.0	12.0	10.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	9.0	13.0	2.0	18	72
9	8462	Rohart Xavier	Ponsot Pierre-Alexis	FRA	NI	1.0	13.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	14.0	11.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	8	86
10	8473	O'Leary Peter	Burrows David	IRL	ISOL	2.0	6.0	14.0	5.0	11.0	12.0	17.0 [DSQ]	7.0	11.0	7.0	20	95
11	8433	Hestbaek Michael	Olesen Claus	DEN	DF	12.0	11.0	13.0	15.0	13.0	7.0	6.0	3.0	14.0	10.0	---	89
12	8466	Clarke Richard	Bjorn Tyler	CAN	VI	16.0	10.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	17.0 [OCS]	13.0	12.0	5.0	13.0	---	93
13	8472	Marazzi Flavio	De Maria Enrico	SUI	TB	13.0	8.0	11.0	9.0	15.0	8.0	10.0	13.0	15.0	16.0	---	102
14	8434	Papathanasiou Emilios	Tsotras Adonis	GRE	GR	3.0	16.0	7.0	12.0	7.0	15.0	17.0 [BFD]	17.0 [DSQ]	17.0 [OCS]	12.0	---	106
15	8468	Domingos Afonso	Melo Frederico	POR	CP	14.0	15.0	15.0	16.0	9.0	10.0	7.0	14.0	10.0	14.0	---	108
16	8443	Lovrovic Marin	Lovrovic Dan	CRO	Kv	8.0	12.0	16.0	14.0	14.0	13.0	12.0	15.0	12.0	15.0	---	115

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### ISCYRA Central Office

914 Bay Ridge Road, Suite 220  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403 USA  
Phone: +1 443 458 5733  
Fax: +1 443 458 5735  
SKYPE: star.class.office  
[office@starclass.org](mailto:office@starclass.org)



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