



## Pacific Coast Championship

July 29-30, 2017

The 2017 U20 Pacific Coast Championships were hosted by Rogue Yacht Club at Howard Prairie Lake in Southern Oregon. The fleet was small but feisty with very competitive racing – four different boats won at least one race. Rogue had a tow vehicle issue and missed the racing on Friday evening followed by a jib failure on Uhoo after the first race on Saturday.

Conditions Friday evening were a steady 12-14kts with higher gusts which resulted in a lot of gear shifts between soaking and planing. Madison rounded the top mark in first place on Race #1 with UDecide in hot pursuit. UDecide worked hard to get in position to make just the right pass at just the right time to get inside overlap at the bottom mark and maintain it to the finish.



Race #2 saw Toon Town have an excellent start and get into a good groove. Toon Town and UDecide went left on the downwind and Madison went right. The left got the better off it and the two lead boats opened up a big lead at the bottom mark. Madison recovered on the long beat back to weather and rounded right behind UDecide at the top mark. As Madison and UDecide messed with each other Toon Town was able to get in a groove and extend. UDecide managed to fend off several close attacks from Madison and get the 2<sup>nd</sup> by a half boat length or so.

Racing was followed by a fun social hour back at camp on Friday night with beer from Caldera and hor d'oeuvres from Harry and David.



Racing Saturday morning began with all five boats on the line and winds in the 8-12 kt range all day. Madison was a little out of tune on Race #1 and did not have her best speed. Toon Town had a great start and was pretty much in control the whole way. This race had the fewest lead changes but the fleet was also the most tightly packed. UHoo had found their pace and all five boats finished in tight succession. Races 4 and 5 saw numerous lead changes and fleet reshuffling as the shifts and the puffs moved boats around on the course. Madison got the shift that mattered – the last one – and won Race #4

. At the final mark rounding on Race #5, Rogue and Madison had a little disagreement on an “overlap at the zone call” which caused these two boats to get tied up a bit. This allowed UDecide a few boat lengths of breathing room to close out Race #5.

The final race on Saturday was a tight battle between UDecide and Madison all the way around the course. On the final downwind leg, UDecide managed to work right and get the inside lane at the bottom mark. Both boats had good drops. UDecide heated up to protect her lane and Madison footed off to get separation and clear her air. This position ensued through the next two tacks to the starboard layline. UDecide overstood slightly to defend the finish line. Madison was slightly ahead at this point but below UDecide and had to wait for their tack and overstand a little more. The drag race was on. Madison had good speed and was pulling ahead slightly. UDecide then got a little lift and closed height and distance. Then a westerly shift came on and UDecide was now mid-finish line and Madison was on the pin layline. Both boats shot the line...

Saturday night was a spaghetti dinner back at camp. It was good food, great fun, beer from Caldera and fleet bartending by Denise. The Aussie provided half the entertainment which is his job at such things; his story telling is at least as good as his spinnaker trimming. Then the results came in on Race #6. Race committee awarded it to UDecide on the posted results. The problem is that in this day and age there is video evidence. The finish video provided the second half of the entertainment Saturday night. After numerous debates, stop frame video and looking much deeper into the rulebook on exactly where the finish line is than anyone ever thought was necessary, the consensus was a dead heat. The race was re-scored and the points were split. This left a tiny window open for Madison but in need of help from Rogue or Toon Town.

Sunday racing saw 5-7kts of consistent breeze. The first race Sunday morning was not to be for Madison. Two thirds of the way up the first beat, the other three boats were on the left and a westerly shift came in (so much for local knowledge). They were all lifted and Madison was DOA. UDecide stayed between Madison and the finish line to close out the championship. Phil, Denise, Torston and Julian sailed well all weekend. They also performed a load test on their port spreader that is now deflected at about 13 degrees. While it did not look pretty, it did not hurt them in the end. Madison was fast on the final race to lock up second and Michael Eisenburg finished third. Below are the results:

<http://www.roqueyachtclub.org/uploads/Racing%20Results/2017/2017%20U20%20PCC%20-%20RYC%20Regatta%20Final%20Results.pdf>

Hopefully, if the class allows to RYC host again, a few more boats can make their calendars work. We had great sailing and a great time! Thanks to all those who made the trek!

Jay Harland  
Madison #73