

No Margin for Error

With just two points separating the top four positions after three races, there was no margin for error on the first day of sailing in the 49er World Championship being held during the combined ISAF Worlds in Perth, Australia.

Organizers endeavored to start races on time to beat the impending forecast for thunderstorms and heavy afternoon winds on the Centre course, designed for theatre racing and ran the 67 teams in two fleets getting three races a piece off for each fleet.

Jonas Warrer and Soren Hansen (DEN1221) were first out of the block scoring a win and stayed consistent scoring a 4-5 in the remaining races meanwhile Peter Burling and Blair Tuke (NZL111) improved through their day with a 5-3-2.

Ed Powys, crew with Dave Evans (GBR1183) commented on their second race where they scored a 7, and after winning the first race of the day, "it wasn't a good race, but we didn't make any mistakes and that was what was important."

Manu Dyen and Stephane Christidis (FRA4) came back after a tough first race finishing 13th to win race 2 in their fleet and posted a 8th to leave them standing in 12th overall. Christidis commented that "the conditions were quite tricky and you had to be careful with the rain showers and watch your maneuvers."

Tomorrow's forecast is for more stable breeze and the fleet will be sailing on Owen course to the south.

Fourteen countries will qualify for twenty of the entries for the 2012 Olympics to be held in Weymouth next August. There are twenty-nine nations entered in the 49er fleet in Perth.