



2014 SOUTH AMERICAN WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

including the
 2014 TECHNO 293 SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS & 2014 RACEBOARD SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
 25th to 29th March 2014 - Lake Potrerillos, Mendoza, Argentina

2014 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFICATION EVENT for T293

The YOG Qualifiers: ARG 40 - Francisco Saubidet Birkner, BRA 12 - Daniel Pereira, PER 50 - Maria Belen Basso, ARG 119 - Micaela Lauret

RESULTS: Techno 293 FINAL / Raceboard FINAL

And so another great event concludes with a prizegiving, popping of champagne corks and celebrations. This excellent location provided a variety of conditions and the scenery is simply stunning. The Asociacion Argentina de Windsurf (AAW) are to be congratulated on their organisation of this superb championship event and for their warm hospitality.

Lars van Someren: *"The event is over, time to start our long journey home. It was a great week with changing and difficult conditions, we had strong winds and light winds. Now time to go back to Europe and start preparing for the European Championships which is also the Youth Olympic Qualifier."*

[Day One
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by Patrik Pollak](#)

Argentinian **Francisco Saubidet Birkner** had already secured the title of **2014 Techno 293 U17 Boys South American Champion**", and qualified his country for the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, with the perfect score of 10 before the 12th and final race. Silver and Bronze positions on the podium were also determined. Lars van Sommeren (NED-800) took the final championship bullet and was followed over the line by Geronimo Nores (USA-108).

Maria Belen Basso (PER-50) finished the championship as she started, third over the line in the last race, and claimed the title **2014 Techno 293 U17 Girls South American Champion**.

The strong wind conditions in Mendoza are very similar to where Maria trains in Peru, so this is why she did well, and she plans to go to the Europeans in Italy then to the World Championships in France. She sailed well right from the start of these Championships but still feels she needs to train more in light winds to prepare for China.



First u-15 boy was Argentinian Martin Nores and first u-15 girl was Brazilian Larissa Ricci Schenker.

Meanwhile, over in the Raceboard Fleet, **Martin Berardo (ARG-7)** retains the title of **South American Raceboard Champion** and Fernando Consorte (ARG-355) pips Andres Anderson (ARG-119) to the silver post by just one point.

Three more races on the final day made a grand total of fifteen for the raceboard championship! It had been quite a battle between Fernando and Andres all week and as they entered the final nail biting day Fernando was two points behind. After race 13 he was just one point behind, then they were equal after race 14 - although a tie break at this stage would have gone in Andres' favour. The final race 15 was the clincher. **Fernando Consorte** took silver and **First Master**, leaving Andres Anderson to take bronze on the podium.

First Grandmaster is Esteban De Pierris (ARG-36), 6th overall. **First Youth is Agustin Reynaud (ARG-330)**, 10th overall. **1st Veteran Daniel San Martin (ARG-4)** put in a good performance at 15th overall and Beatriz Pelleriti deserves a mention as our one and only female competitor.



FROM DAY ONE . . . An unusually chilly start under grey skies for the South American Championships for Techno 293 and Raceboard.

Top of the **Techno** leaderboard after two races on day one was Lars Van Sommeren from the Netherlands, perhaps a little more accustomed to such nippy conditions, with two second places. Second overall was Mack van den Eerenbeemt from Aruba who took the bullet in race 1 but a fifth in the second. Peruvian Maria Belen Bazo was not only first girl but also put in a very consistent performance to be in third place overall. We also had a girl, Brazilian Larissa Ricci Schenker, heading the u-15 fleet and first u-15 boy was Argentinian Martin Nores.

"So cold!" said Francisco Saubidet Birkner (ARG-40). "The first race I was over but the second race was perfect. Tomorrow will be windy and not cold like today!" There was no doubt that Francisco had his sights firmly set on the Championship title even though he ended the day in 17th place on the leaderboard. As soon as he was able to discard his too-enthusiastic over-the-line start, he maintained a perfect score, taking the bullet in every race.

Over in the **Raceboard Fleet**, two Brazilians plus the strong Argentinian contingent made a total entry of 31. There was a good mix of age groups ranging from youth to veteran but, sadly, just the one lady.

The defending champion, Martin Berardo, trounced the competition with two bullets on day one, then maintained his winning form throughout the championship, bar the last race in which he did not compete.

Day Two with similar light to moderate conditions brought some movement in the **Techno** ranks. Francisco ended a clear ten points ahead of his closest rival, Geronimo Nores (USA-108), second at the recent North American Championships. Not such a good day for the overnight leader, Lars van Sommeren, who slipped down to third, on 16 equal points with an improving Facundo Ridriguez Beistegui (ARG-102). First girl Maria Belen Basso from Peru slipped down to fifth overall and first Brazilian, Daniel Pereira, was now sixth. 1st under-15 boy Argentinian Martin Nores moved up the leaderboard past our 1st under-15 girl Brazilian Larissa Ricci Schenker.



Gaston Bermudez, the sole representative from Uruguay, said, "I am enjoying it a lot because I have never raced with so many people before and they are very good, so I am having a great time . . . It's been tough, I think I'll manage a lot better in stronger winds . . ."

Dad & coach, Alvaro Bermudez, said, "I think it's fantastic this Class . . . the ambience between the kids is so healthy, amongst the parents as well . . . so it's a really good Class to race and to get into windsurfing."

Mack van den Eerenbeemt from Aruba, in second place overnight, tumbled down the leaderboard to 10th. Maximo Nores, North American Champion, was also wallowing down in 12th place overall. Undoubtedly they were praying that the wind gods would bring the promised stronger winds on day three.



Meanwhile in the **Raceboard** Fleet, the three races resulted in little change on the leaderboard. Argentinian Martin Berardo had a good 4 point lead over second placed Andres Anderson and Fernando Consorte managed to step on to the podium and become first master, clear of Marcos Ruesch, now in fourth. Unlike the Technos, throughout the Raceboard fleet there had been polite shuffling rather than a battle charge.



On **Day Three** blue skies brought the wind to Lake Potrerillos. The sailors had experienced two light wind days and now 15-22 knots was expected for the remainder of the Championships - a perfect range of conditions, giving everyone a chance to win.

In the **Techno** Fleet, Francisco Saubidet Birkner proved he is an expert in whatever conditions are thrown at him, and Lars van Sommeren produced consistently better results than day 2 moving into second place on the podium, pushing American Geronimo Nores down to third. The day before, Argentinian Facundo Rodriguez Beistegui had almost had his foot on the podium but the stronger winds blew him right down the leaderboard to 9th. First girl Peruvian Maria Belen Basso ended the day in fourth place overall, leading the rest of the pack, 12 points away from the podium.

Mack van Eerenbeemt from Aruba was happy that the wind had started to blow and went from 10th to 6th overall. He had come to Argentina with the aim of training in light winds and improve but two days was enough for him! "Today the wind picked up a little and I sailed better so my results are way better than yesterday, so maybe I'll go up the leaderboard and hopefully stay there. Now I want to 'kick some ass'."

The change in conditions did little to rattle the more experienced **Raceboard** Fleet competitors who maintained their positions right down the fleet, to seventh overall at least, with just a little jostling and a few personal triumphs further down the leaderboard.



Day Four promised the normal conditions of Potrerillos, but it delayed a little to grow with a top wind speed of 16 knots and by the third race of the day it was back down to 6/7 knots. Second placed Lars Van Sommeren ended the day 20 points adrift of Francisco but 8 points ahead of Geronimo Nores occupying the third spot on the podium. With just one championship race left there was nothing anyone could do to change this order, nor would there be any last-minute charge for the podium as 4th placed Daniel Pereira was 17 points off.

However, many personal battles were going on right down the leaderboard where one more race could make a difference. This competition was about far more than the podium places. All the kids were gaining excellent world class competition experience, learning from each other and, as always, making new friends. How fantastic to have no less than 6 different countries in the top 7 as we entered the final day.

For sure, Martin Berardo would retain the South American **Raceboard** Champion title, totally untouchable, having won all 12 races so far in this championship. Another certainty was Andres Anderson and Fernando Consorte would also finish this Championship on the podium. However, who would take silver and who would take bronze was still the subject of a keen contest as Fernando was closing the gap, now just two points behind Andres.



Raul Pasqualin: "It is really nice to see how windsurfing has changed in the last maybe 8 years. Techno Class has re-born windsurfing from the base which is most important for the kids - we have to focus on the kids - and here in South America it is happening like we planned. According to Raul, the Argentinians were inspired by their first venture into Techno 293 at the Worlds in Martigues. They saw how much fun the kids were having there, worked hard to build a great fleet on returning home and their success is very evident - well deserved congratulations!

And of course this had been a fabulous training ground for our competitors from Aruba, the Netherlands and USA preparing for the Worlds in France and the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing.

"A 28 hour trip but this place is totally worth it," said Lars van Sommeren.



The Nanjing Qualifiers:

- BRA 12 - Daniel Pereira
- ARG 119 - Micaela Lauret
- PER 50 - Maria Belen Basso
- ARG 40 - Francisco Saubidet Birkner

