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Wind Kicks Up on Opening Day at Quantum Key West 2013

--- *Fantastica Earns Nautica Watches Day Boat of the Day*

Key West, Fla -- In sailboat racing, it's always nice when the wind conditions prove better than predicted. Early forecasts for the opening day of Quantum Key West 2013 were questionable, to the point some sailors were worried whether a race could be completed.

Turns out the breeze was much stronger and more stable than expected and organizers with Premiere Racing were able to conduct two good races for all three divisions, getting the 26th annual regatta off to a strong start.

"We'll take this as a bonus day," said George Caras of Commander's Weather, who on Sunday was seeing light air of five knots or less.

Principal race officers Ken Legler (Division 1), Dave Brennan (Division 2) and Wayne Bretsch (Division 3) all recorded north-northwesterly winds from six to nine knots and had no problem getting courses set and races started.

"Very comfortable," was how Quantum Racing tactician Ed Baird described the conditions. "It was great to get in two races on a day that was supposed to be dicey. Now that's the end of that wind speed and now we're going to climb the ladder."

Indeed, Caras expects 12-18 knot winds on Tuesday and even stronger on Wednesday after a front comes through.

Quantum Racing is leading the IRC 2, the 52 class, after winning Race 2 on Monday. Skipper Doug DeVos and crew began defense of their Key West crown with a fourth, for which Baird took the blame.

"I didn't start Doug off in the best manner. I put him in a bad place on the start line and we were forced to the right. That looked good for a while, but turned out bad," Baird said. "We got a much better start in the second race, led around the first weather mark and kind of legged out from there."

Azzurra, the Argentina entry that won the 52 Super Series in 2012, got the gun in Race 1. However, skipper Alberto Roemmers got a tough start in Race 2 then had the misfortune of hooking a crab pot en route to finishing last in the six-boat fleet.

Bella Mente also snagged a crab pot while match racing with fellow 72-footer Shockwave in IRC 2, the Mini Maxi class. "We couldn't shake it so we dropped the chute and backed off," skipper Hap Fauth said.

Bella Mente had better luck in Race 2, hitting the line with perfect timing and top speed to leeward of Shockwave. Tactician Dee Smith called the shifts correctly and the Judel-Vrolijk design crossed the Reichel-Pugh design with plenty of room to spare by the fourth tack.

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"It's going to be a good battle all week. The boats are very close in performance," said Fauth, whose Bella Mente holds the overall lead via tiebreaker.

Steve Benjamin said single digit winds did not favor his Carkeek 40 in the High Performance Class. However, the Connecticut-based North Sails professional did just fine in those moderate conditions on Monday, winning both races over fellow Carkeek 40 Decision (Stephen Murray, New Orleans).

"I'm pleasantly surprised. Our boat was going better than ever before in that wind range," said Benjamin, who praised wife Heidi for an outstanding job of reading the wind shifts. "We went left most of the day and it usually paid off."

California skipper John Demourkas and his crew aboard Groovederci lead the Farr 40 class after posting a pair of seconds on opening day. Barking Mad (Jim Richardson, Newport, R.I.) and Struntje Light (Wolfgang Schaefer, Lueneburg, German) were the day's winners, but Groovederci, with Cameron Appleton calling tactics, showed the most consistency.

"We got good starts at the pin end and had success going left in both races," Demourkas said.

Fantastica, a Melges 32 skippered by Lanfranco Cirillo of Brescia, Italy, earned the Nautica Watches Boat of the Day honor after winning an opening day duel with fellow Italian entry Robertissima 1. Both boats totaled five points, but Fantastica won the tiebreaker based on a bullet in the second race.

Skipper Philip Williamson (Fort Worth, Texas) got Hoss off to a strong start in Swan 42 class, placing third in Race 1 then winning Race 2 to build a three-point lead over Vitesse (Jon Halbert, Dallas, Texas) and Stark Raving Mad VI (James Madden, Fort Lauderdale).

"Patience was key today in picking a side, making a commitment and pressing the boat in the light stuff, which is very tough," Williamson said. "We didn't have a great start in the second race, but had the advantage of being behind some of the bigger boats to be able to see what was happening in front and be able to incorporate that into our strategy."

J/70 is the largest class at Quantum Key West 2013 with 39 boats and California professional Dave Ullman is the early leader after placing second in both races. Greg Koski and Tom Lihan are crewing for Ullman, who said owner Joseph Colling (Bath, Ohio) is out for the week after injuring ribs during a practice session.

"We had a very nice day and are very pleased. Our boat was quite quick today," said Ullman (Newport Beach), whose team on USA 69 holds a seven-point lead over B Squared (Brian Elliott, Sayville, NY).

Helmsman Alec Cutler and his hedgehog team have seized control of the Melges 24 class, second-largest of the regatta with 24 boats. Richard Clarke, who has represented Canada in multiple Olympics, called tactics as Cutler took second in both races on Monday.

Skipper Bill Sweetser has been a runner-up in Key West more times than he cares to count, often leading the regatta at some point in the week and not being able to close it out. Rush, a J/109 from Annapolis, is atop the standings after Day 1 thanks to an impressive 2-1 score line.

"This was the perfect wind range for our boat," Rush tactician Tad Hutchins said. "The deal today was more about velocity than shifts. The wind was hard to see on the water. If you were smart enough to scope out the velocity you did well."

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Follow the racing and shoreside action through the online portal: <http://www.premiere-racing.com/KWRWLive/> USE #QKeyWest in your tags and keeping connected!

Quantum Key West 2013 is a US SAILING sanctioned event.

Event Sponsors include Title Sponsor **Quantum Sails** (Official Sailmaker) and Day Sponsors **Lewmar/Navtec** (Official Marine Hardware), **Mount Gay® Rum** (Official Rum), and **Nautica Watches** (Official Timekeeper). The Supporting Sponsors are **B&G** (Official Marine Electronics), **Marlow Ropes** (Official Rope), and **Gill** (Official Technical Gear).

Regatta dates are January 20 – 25, 2013.

Key West Race Week is also supported by *The Florida Keys & Key West Tourism Council*. The *Historic Seaport at the Key West Bight* is the Official Marina. The *Ocean Key Resort and Spa* is the Official Hotel. *Sapporo USA* is the Official Beer.

24 Industry Partners bring their support through a program that is now in its 12th year.

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The racing will be conducted under permit in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary protects 2,900 square nautical miles of critical marine habitat, including coral reef, hard bottom, seagrass meadow, mangrove communities and sand flats.

Event information, past results and photos: www.Premiere-Racing.com

About Quantum Sail Design Group



Founded by a group of independent, experienced sailmakers who shared a common vision, the Quantum Sail Design Group has been dedicated to overcoming the trend towards mass-marketing and mediocrity in the sailmaking industry. The company is known for its winning sail designs in dozens of classes from dinghies to super yachts and its high-performance FusionM® sails.

Quantum has more than 60 sales and service outlets throughout the world, with European headquarters in Barcelona, Spain, and corporate offices in Traverse City, Michigan.

www.QuantumSails.com

For more information and coverage of Quantum Key West Race Week 2013:
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[Key West Race Week Photo Gallery](#)
[Quantum Key West 2012 Results](#)

Photographs are available to qualified media.
Email: jeanne@premiere-racing.com

Quantum Key West 2013 Standings after two races – top three in class

KWRW Division 1 Course

High Performance Class (HPR - 9 Boats)

1. SPOOKIE, HPR Carkeek 40, Steve & Heidi Benjamin , Norwalk, CT, USA, 1-1; 2
2. Decision, HPR Carkeek 40, Stephen Murray , New Orleans, LA, USA, 2-2; 4
3. Santa, Farr 400, Jesper Bank / Michael Hestbek (T) , DEN, 3-3; 6

IRC 1 (Mini Maxi Class) (IRC - 2 Boats)

1. Bella Mente, Judel-Vrolijk Mini Maxi, Hap Fauth , Minneapolis, MN, USA, 2-1; 3
2. Shockwave, Reichel/Pugh mini maxi, George Sakellaris , Framingham, MA, USA, 1-2; 3

IRC 2 (52 Class) (IRC - 6 Boats)

1. Quantum Racing, TP 52, Doug DeVos , Ada, MI, USA, 4-1; 5
2. Gladiator, TP 52, Tony Langley , Retford, Nottinghamshire, UK, 2-3; 5
3. Azzurra, TP 52, Alberto Roemmers , Porto Cervo, Sardinia, Italy, 1-6; 7

IRC 2 (52 Super Series) (IRC - 6 Boats)

1. Quantum Racing (SS), TP 52, Doug DeVos , Ada, MI, USA, 4-1; 5
2. Gladiator (SS), TP 52, Tony Langley , Retford, Nottinghamshire, UK, 2-3; 5
3. Azzurra (SS), TP 52, Alberto Roemmers , Buenos Aires, Caba, ARG, 1-6; 7

IRC Sub-Class (IRC - 4 Boats)

1. SPOOKIE (IRC), HPR Carkeek 40, Steve & Heidi Benjamin , Norwalk, CT, USA, 1-1; 2
2. Decision (IRC), HPR Carkeek 40, Stephen Murray , New Orleans, LA, USA, 2-2; 4
3. Catapult (IRC), Ker 40, Marc Glimcher , New York, NY, USA, 3-3; 6

Farr 400 One Design (One Design - 4 Boats)

1. Team Premier (OD), Farr 400, Hannes Waimer , Dubai, UAE, 1-2; 3
2. Chessie Racing (OD), Farr 400, George Collins , Miami Beach, FL, USA, 3-1; 4
3. Meridian X (OD), Farr 400, W.S. Shelhorse , Virginia Beach, VA, USA, 2-4; 6

Farr 40 (One Design - 6 Boats)

1. Groovederci, Farr 40, John Demourkas , Santa Barbara, CA, USA, 2-2; 4
2. Barking Mad, Farr 40, James Richardson , Boston, MA, USA, 1-4; 5
3. Struntje light, Farr 40, Wolfgang Schaefer , Lueneburg, GER, 5-1; 6

Swan 42 (One Design - 7 Boats)

1. Hoss, Swan 42, Glenn Darden / Philip Williamson , Fort Worth, TX, USA, 3-1; 4
2. Vitesse, Swan 42, Jon Halbert , Dallas, TX, USA, 1-6; 7
3. Stark Raving Mad VI, Swan 42, James Madden , Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA, 5-2;7

Melges 32 (One Design - 11 Boats)

1. Fantastica, Melges 32, Cirillo Lanfranco , Roncadelle, Brescia, ITA, 4-1; 5
2. Robertissima 1, Melges 32, Roberto Tomasini Grinover , Lugano, SUI, 2-3; 5
3. Bombarda, Melges 32, Andrea Pozzi , Milano, ITA, 1-8; 9

Melges 24 (One Design - 23 Boats)

1. hedgehog, Melges 24, Alec Cutler , Pembroke, BER, 2-2; 4
2. Full Throttle, Melges 24, Brian Porter , Lake Geneva, WI, USA, 7-1; 8
3. Monsoon, Melges 24, Bruce Ayres , Costa Mesa, CA, USA, 1-9; 10

J 70 (One Design - 39 Boats)

1. USA 69, J 70, Joseph Colling , Bath, OH, USA, 2-2; 4
2. B Squared, J 70, Brian Elliott , Sayville, NY, USA, 4-7; 11
3. Heartbreaker, J 70, Robert Hughes , Ada, MI , USA, 1-12; 13

J 70 (Corinthian) (One Design - 12 Boats)

1. B Squared (COR), J 70, Brian Elliot / David Hyer (T) , Sayville, NY, USA, 1-1; 2
2. Torqeedo (COR), J 70, Chris Carroll , Vancouver, BC, CAN, 2-4; 6
3. Sundog (COR), J 70, Kathy Parks / Paul Parks (T) , Shady Side, MD, USA, 6-2; 8

KWRW Division 3 Course

J 80 (One Design - 4 Boats)

1. Vayu 2, J 80, Ron Buzil , Evanston, IL, USA, 1-1; 2
2. Participant III, J 80, G. John Krediet , Stamford, CT, USA, 2-2; 4
3. Willy T, J 80, Dave Manheimer , Annapolis, MD, USA, 3-3; 6

PHRF 1 (PHRF_ToT - 6 Boats)

1. Teamwork, J 122, Robin Team , Lexington, NC, USA, 1-2; 3
2. White Gold, J 44 MOD, James D. Bishop , Jamestown, RI, USA, 3-1; 4
3. Lake Effect, J 111, Robert Hesse , Youngstown, NY, USA, 2-3; 5

PHRF 2 (PHRF_ToT - 8 Boats)

1. Rush, J 109, Bill Sweetser , Annapolis, MD, USA, 2-1; 3
2. Rhumb Punch, Farr 30, John and Linda Edwards , California, MD, USA, 1-3; 4
3. Farr 2 Tangley, Farr 30, Jonathan Ross , Charlottetown, PEI, CAN, 6-2; 8