

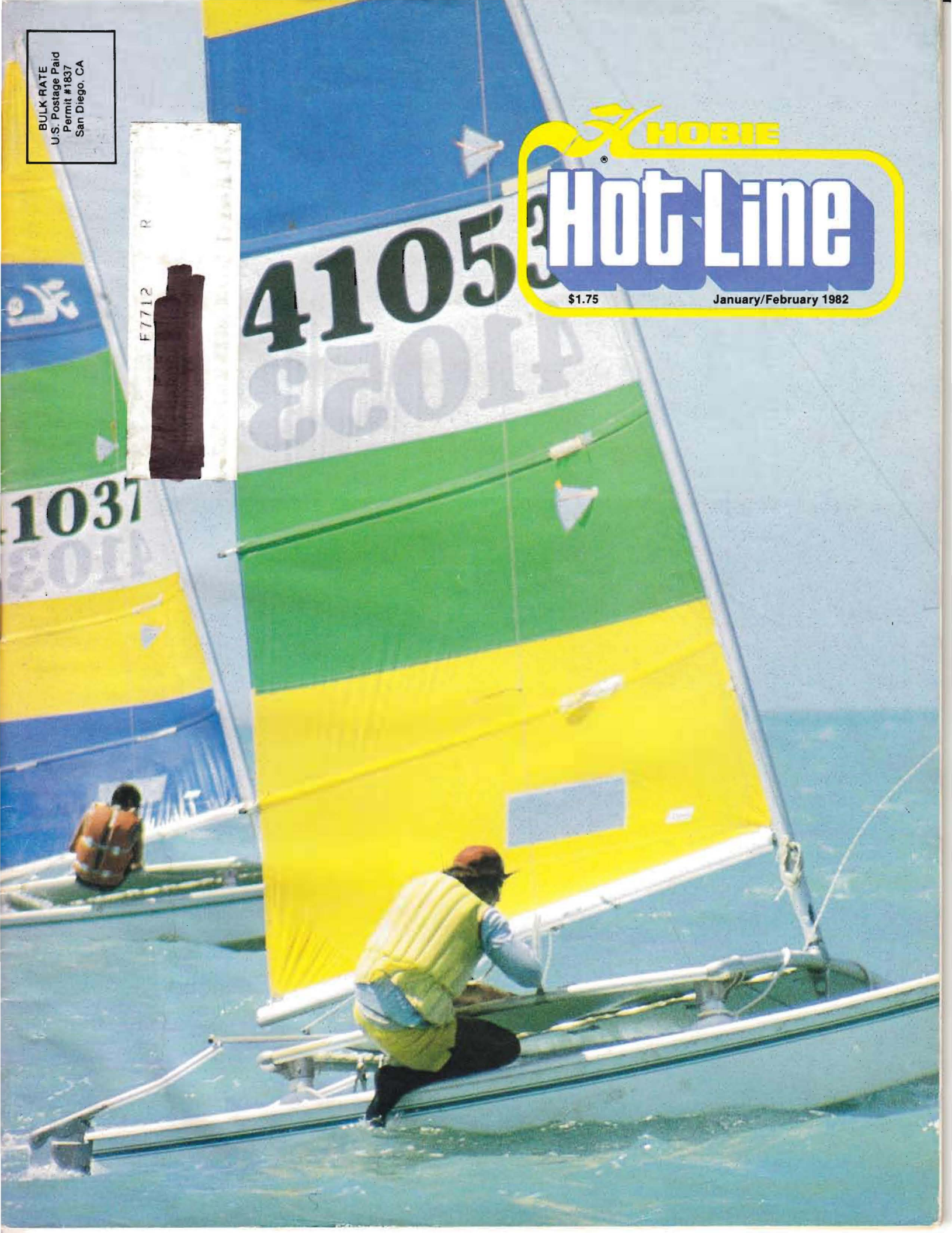
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14 Worlds

Enrique
Figueroa
Takes the
1981 Title
in Fortaleza,
Brazil

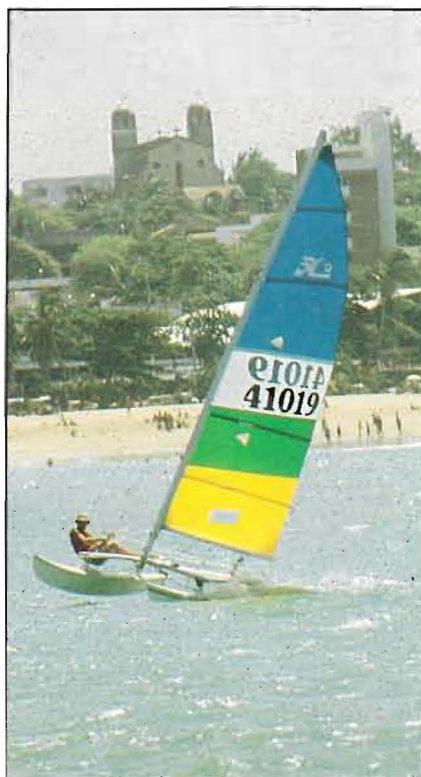




Sandy Banks



Gilles Lhoie



Sandy Banks

The Tahitian team looking uncommonly serious were ready for the competition. Top row, left to right is Herman Trafton, Fred Paquier, Kitty Salmon, and Eric Paofai. Bottom row is Pierre Gambert, Do Salmon, and Francis Petras (top photo). Racing was always tight both on the water (center) and while tuning on the beach (far left).

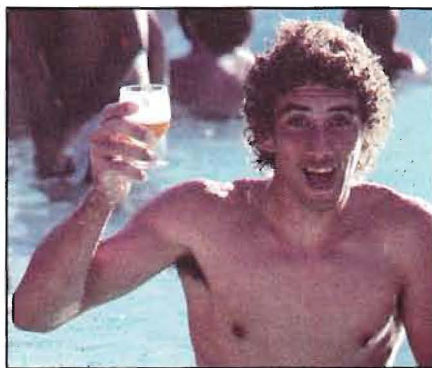


The waters of the world were mixed by representatives of each country as the racers anxiously awaited the start of the sixth Hobie 14 World Championship held in Fortaleza, Brazil, November 22-28. The generally busy street along the waterfront was closed to traffic and men in clean white Brazilian Navy suits stood at attention as representatives from 11 countries raised the flags of their homelands on the shore of Brazil. Sailors from Australia, United States, Tahiti, the Philippines, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Puerto Rico and Brazil gathered as the Governor of the State of Ceara poured the combined sea water from different parts of the world into the sea at Fortaleza, officially opening the championship.

Never before had there been a Hobie World Championship for which the winds blew a constant 15 to 20 knots, the sun was warm all day long and the water was as warm as the air. As consistent as the winds were, racers were constantly trying to figure which way the shifts might go next. There was a general pattern to the wind, with enough slight direction changes to keep the racing interesting.

The Brazilian Nationals took place in Fortaleza the week before the championship, providing a large group of Brazilian sailors who were ready to try for the 20 spots still open in the championship series. Herman Trafton of Tahiti sailed the most impressive qualifying series, winning three of the four races. Included in the qualifying races were six women sailors, five of them from Brazil.

Enrique Figueroa, the 1981 U.S. Hobie 14 National Champion, from the very beginning showed promise of becoming the new World champion as well. However, sailing just as consistently as he were five other



The Winner Celebrates!
sailors. At one point during the finals, six sailors were within one point of first place. With the wind being strong, the heavy air sailors, such as the Australians, Tahitians, South Africans and Team Fat (open to those sailors weighing in at 180 lbs. or more) were all going fast.

The welcome dinner was just the beginning of a long string of parties hosted by the Governor of the State of Ceara, the Mayor of Fortaleza, the Yacht Club and on and on... Gifts, such as a balsa wood replica of the Jangadas, were given at every party. The hospitality was incredible, not only from our hosts and the local dignitaries, but from the local people, the Brazilian sailors and the Imperial Othon Palace Hotel personnel.

The first morning's races began with

the usual 15-20 knot wind. The Australians were off to a great start, with Gary Metcalf winning the first race of the championship. Earlier this year, at the Hobie 18 Worlds, the Aussies threatened to add the 14 Worlds to their string of titles (the 1980 16 Worlds, the 1981 18 Worlds and the 1981 Worrell 1000). Close behind Metcalf was William Edwards, from South Africa. The two took a long lead over the rest of the pack. They established the basic pattern of the course, sailing to the outside near the shipwreck, before making their tack after the start, then using the lift up the beach the second time to A-mark. The pattern remained basically the same throughout the week with minor variations each day. The sailors switched boats between races, quickly tuning their rigs to their own satisfaction. Most of the racers seemed to be sailing with tight rigs and maximum mast rake, then sheeting block to block once out on the course, but any combination from loose rigs to tight rigs could be found.

In the next race, Hiro DeMeyer from Tahiti rounded A-mark first, maintaining his lead to the finish. Michael Collier from South Africa and Enrique Figueroa moved up into second and third, respectively, on their way to the leeward mark. The top three maintained their positions to the finish.

The winds lightened slightly for the last race of the day. (15 knots was considered light air in this series.) Nelson Piccolo, the five-time Brazilian National Champion, took advantage of



Leocacio Ferreira

a good lift up the beach as the afternoon wind began to swing out to sea, placing him in a strong first-place position. As Piccolo hit the beach, he looked like the Brazilian National hero come home. Cheers in Portuguese were abundant; he was obviously the local favorite. Following him was Kitty Salmon from Tahiti. Salmon barely lost out to Phil Berman in the last race of the Championship at the 14 Worlds in 1979. This time Salmon maintained his position, finishing second behind Piccolo, with Figueroa third.

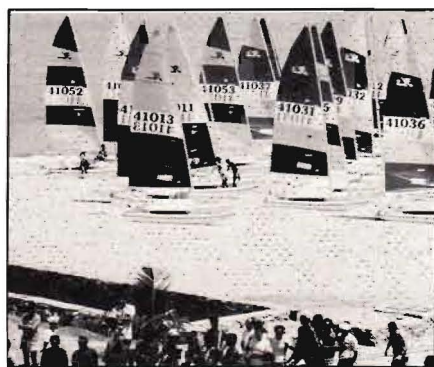
The crowded shoreline of tanned bodies and bikini-clad ladies would part as the boats hit the beach, and a group of men and boys would rush forth to carry the boats up the beach. Throughout the week, this exuberant group of assistants would meet the incoming boats, barely giving the exhausted skippers a chance to scramble off before hoisting the 14s into the air and on up the beach. Such help, was wonderful especially after a long, windy race.

The first day of the series was over; the starts were tough and the sailing tiring. As the sun set, the sidewalk merchants put out their wares, while weary skippers gathered nearby on the patio of the Imperial Palace Othon Hotel to watch the incoming sails of the ancient Jangadas (or, if you were a young Aussie, it was girl-watching).

As was typical, the next day dawned with wind in the early morning. Wind was the one thing that nobody ever worried about — that day it picked up to 20 to 25 knots.

In the first race, Phil Smyth from Australia won with Anthony Duchatel

another Aussie, second and Collier third. Phil Berman, the defending World Champion, won the next race, demonstrating that his months of studying had not hindered his sailing abilities. Collier finished second, giving



him the best score so far, with two seconds and a third. Third was young Metcalf.

In the next race with his Tahitian "one rudder up to weather" sailing style, Salmon was in the lead, Ian Bashford, the 1981 Hobie 18 World champion was pushing him hard from behind, forcing Salmon to sail fast to maintain his first-place position. Taking off from the pack, these two raced neck and neck for the entire course. Bashford passed Salmon on the reach from B to C-mark, but Salmon got him back to weather by sailing closer to the beach. Crossing the finish line was Salmon first, Bashford second and Piccolo third.

Prior to the finals, the race committee called course 4 (A-B-C-A-C) for every race. The course was spread out over a large distance; with the finish line moved to weather, a course 4 provided plenty of sailing. The seventh race started late in the afternoon. Bashford



won, with Alexandre Martins from Brazil in second and Hiro DeMeyer in third. DeMeyer was looking very good with a first, second and third.

Race 8 started out the third day of racing. This was the last day before the fleet would be cut in half for the finals. Jeff Alter from the U.S., also representing Team Fat, was fast off the port favored line and took an early lead. Alter was one of the first non-Tahitians to adapt the "Tahitian Style," one rudder up to weather. Later in the week, most of the sailors in the top ten of every race were sailing this way, regardless of their nationality (in previous world championships, this style was used exclusively by the Tahitians).

The reaching mark had been moved outside the shipwreck as the wind continued to shift slightly out to sea. Lifts and headers were abundant, helping and hurting the sailors, depending upon luck and where they were on the course. Alter, with a 30-second lead at one point, finished first, with Metcalf second and Carlos Leite from Brazil, third.

It was up to race nine and ten to determine the top 44 sailors who would participate in the final series for the last two days. In the ninth race, DeMeyer was off to another great start, quickly stringing out his lead. In his typical style, Figueroa, sailing in a strong sixth position all the way around the course, managed to move

up to fourth between C-mark and the finish. Bashford, working back and forth between second and third positions, stayed very high after rounding C-mark, giving him an advantage in the lift gaining him a second-place finish. Salmon went from fourth to second, with Hiro Demeyer taking another first-place. This was typical of many of the races, when 15 to 20 of the best 14 skippers in the world race together, any of which are capable of winning it overall, radical changes in positions are constantly taking place. In the last race of the preliminaries, Tony Laurent from Australia placed first, Berman finished second and Metcalf, third.

A team of Brazilians helped carry the boats to and from the waters edge.



Ian Bashford, Jeff Alter and friends enjoying Brazil (top). Michael Collier from South Africa waits for his next race (bottom).



Paula Alter



Paula Alter

After Hours in Fortaleza

Along with the sailing at the Worlds came the parties — and party we did. Every night there was a dinner or a cocktail party. Sunday night's cocktail party was held at the late Yacht Club. The skippers were given a bottle of locally-brewed Ceara Whiskey, which they tasted along with hors d'oeuvre. After a few drinks, the skippers enjoyed dancing by the local folk dancers.

Monday night's welcome party was again held at the yacht club, with cocktails, dinner and the announcement of the qualifiers. Each attendee was given a replica jingada made of balsa wood. While waiting for the announcement of the qualifiers, several skippers tried their racing abilities on the jangada at the yacht club pool.

Tuesday night, like all nights, everyone boarded the buses in the front of the hotel for the night's adventure. This time it was to the Palacio da Abolicao, Gov. Virgilio Tavora's palace, for cocktails and hors d'oeuvre. Wednesday night's function was held at the Ideal Clube. As we entered and gave the door attendants our tickets, we were given a wood carving depicting the front of a Brazilian house. Thursday night's finalists' party was sponsored by Nautico Atletico Cearense. The announcement of the top 44 was made, and each finalist was given a plaque as a memento of his sailing ability. After the announcement we were treated to a dance from *Carnival*. Native costumes flashed and music was heard for miles.

Friday night the city mayor, Lucio Alcantara, held a cocktail party at Paca Municipal. For the awards banquet, we didn't have to go far — cocktails were poolside and dinner was served in the ballroom of the Imperial Othon Palace Hotel. It was dinner, trophies and then the carnival show of Brazilian music, dancing, people and Hobie!

By now, you're probably asking yourself, how did this all happen? The credit goes to the Brazilian Hobie Class Association, but especially to two people: Walter Cabral and Joao Guimaraes. Walter and Joao devoted a year to planning and organizing this event. They made sure that every skipper received a goodie bag, t-shirt, towel, visor, decals and more. Coast Catamaran Brazil deserves a big thank-you for taking good care of the boats and the skippers for two weeks (the Brazilian Nationals preceeded the Worlds). A thank you as well to all the skippers from around the world who attended the event.

Dinner, cocktails and a show at the Pink Palace kept the crowd occupied until the results of the finalist were announced. Each finalist received a plaque for making the cut. With five races left in the series, Hiro DeMeyer was in the lead with 8½ points; second was Gary Metcalf, with 8¾ points; third was Kitty Salmon, with 11¾ points; fourth was Enrique Figueroa, with 14 points and fifth was Michael Collier, with 14 points.

Friday morning was the first day of the finals and tension was in the air. Tuning looked like serious business as the skippers readied their boats. The first long course of the series was called, a course 7 (A-C-A-B-C-A-C). Bashford, now sailing "Tahitian style," sailed into an incredible lift up the beach, placing him well ahead of the rest of the fleet. With a 38-second lead at the final leeward mark, Bashford continued to stretch out his lead. The rest of the pack had split into two distinctive groups, with the varying wind acting different to each. Salmon was right in there, again, finishing second with Carlos Leite in third. Collier and Figueroa remained in the top five, keeping them both in the running for the title. In the next race, Figueroa took the lead, with Collier close behind. Again Bashford and Metcalf were right there, finishing fourth and fifth, keeping the points tight in the top group. The Brazilian favorite, Nelson Piccolo, took two races in the twenties, putting him out of reach of the first place trophy but still in the running for a top ten position.

At this point the top five racers were within one point of each other:

Figueroa
19¾ points/throwout of 6
Salmon
19¾ points/throwout of 6
Collier
20 points/throwout of 12
Bashford
20½ points/throwout of 24
Metcalf
20¾ points/throwout of 11

Figueroa began showing the same kind of spirit and sailing skill that won him the 14 National title. In the last race of the day, Figueroa opened up his lead all the way around the course, taking another first place. Salmon worked his way to the front of the fleet, eventually finishing second. Salmon was not even in the top ten the first time to A-mark. Tacking early for a layline to A brought him into fifth place, he moved into fourth on the downwind leg and then into second between C-mark and the finish. In third place was Collier.

Continued on page 35

1981 6th HOBIE 14' WORLDS Fortaleza, Brazil November 22-28, 1981

SKIPPER	COUNTRY	RACE BY RACE RESULTS					FINALS RACE BY RACE					TOTAL
		#1/2	#3/4	#5/6	#7/8	#9/10	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	
1. Enrique Figueroa	Puerto Rico (USA)	3	3	6	4	4	5	¾	¾	¾	4	25½
2. Kitty Salmon	Tahiti	6	2	¾	6	3	2	6	2	13	10	37¾
3. Ian Bashford	Australia	11	24	2	¾	2	¾	4	19	7	2	48¾
4. Gary Metcalf	Australia	¾	18	3	2	3	7	5	14	8	8	50¾
5. Hiro DeMeyer	Tahiti	¾	4	5	3	¾	11	7	26	6	17	54½
6. Michael Collier	South Africa	2	3	2	7	12	4	2	3	DNF	22	57
7. Nelson Piccolo	Brazil	5	¾	8	6	8	24	27	12	¾	7	71½
8. Eric Paofai	Tahiti	4	8	15	9	8	19	8	4	6	13	75
9. Anthony Duchatel	Australia	5	2	15	18	6	8	9	23	11	27	97
10. Walter Dreher	Brazil	17	5	11	10	7	9	24	5	10	28	98
11. Nelson Fiedler	Brazil	7	8	3	10	6	28	28	15	19	6	102
12. Phil Smyth	Australia	8	¾	11	12	21	6	16	20	15	14	102¾
13. Phil Berman	United States	13	22	¾	5	2	10	DNF	16	17	24	109¾
14. Fred Paquier	Tahiti	15	6	4	12	10	12	22	9	28	21	111
15. Jeff Alter	United States	14	DNF	13	¾	4	23	28	7	14	12	115¾
16. Carlos Leite	Brazil	13	29	6	3	5	3	10	29	33	20	118
17. Enrique Torres	Puerto Rico (USA)	10	11	9	12	14	17	15	17	16	31	121
18. Do Salmon	Tahiti	9	11	11	24	11	15	19	32	12	9	121
19. Wallrom Vogel	Germany	8	9	21	8	7	20	3	25	21	33	122
20. Guilherme Leite	Brazil	25	23	5	39	9	14	23	8	2	16	125
21. Miles Wood	United States	3	17	8	11	13	DNF	11	10	20	32	125
22. Alexandre Martins	Brazil	4	6	17	2	15	37	14	27	30	15	130
23. Rolf Peter Voelker	Brazil	41	17	10	16	5	21	26	13	4	25	137
24. Carlton Tucker	United States	7	4	7	10	15	18	31	34	DNF	11	137
25. William Edwards	South Africa	2	13	14	5	16	22	41	35	17	23	147
26. Mark Simons	Australia	21	12	18	11	19	13	30	28	25	¾	149¾
27. Tony Laurent	Australia	6	27	7	19	¾	25	32	18	32	18	152¾
28. Ronaldo Fernandes	Brazil	15	10	9	15	12	DNF	17	36	9	38	161
29. Herman Traffton	Tahiti	31	18	4	17	17	16	29	6	37	DNF	175
30. Geoff Pearson	Australia	16	5	22	15	30	33	33	22	39	5	181
31. Paulo Jose Piatti	Brazil	11	16	20	13	28	29	35	24	40	3	189
32. Gustavo Mussnich	Brazil	19	25	16	8	20	31	13	41	24	36	192
33. Wayne Schaffer	United States	28	9	20	23	17	27	38	11	22	37	194
34. Fernando Villar	Brazil	21	7	27	4	22	35	40	DSQ	35	34	194
35. Leopoldo Wildner	Brazil	18	19	10	20	23	32	12	37	34	30	198
36. Luis Claudio Sodre	Brazil	DSQ	7	13	7	16	26	18	38	38	35	198
37. J.F. Soldou	France	33	14	18	16	18	34	20	33	36	29	215
38. Mario Roberto Gern	Brazil	16	16	19	22	10	39	21	30	DNF	DNF	215
39. Guy Pasquier	France	19	31	12	27	13	36	25	31	31	42	225
40. Thomas Kappelmann	Germany	33	21	38	9	14	38	37	39	26	19	235
41. Tom Materna	United States	18	15	34	19	22	41	34	40	27	26	235
42. Dierck Reinhardt	Germany	14	32	21	20	24	42	43	21	23	39	236
43. John Dinsdale	Germany	10	12	22	14	29	32	39	42	41	40	239
44. Fiete Machert	Germany	23	10	12	22	38	40	42	43	29	41	257

SKIPPER	COUNTRY	RACE BY RACE RESULTS					TOTAL
		#1/2	#3/4	#5/6	#7/8	#9/10	
45. Carlos A. Sodre	Brazil	24	22	18	18	33	82
46. Alexandre Stalberg	Brazil	34	27	16	14	25	82
47. Walter Cabral	Brazil	38	13	42	26	11	88
48. Mario Schmidt	Brazil	20	14	29	27	28	89
49. Jorge Cavalcante	Brazil	20	19	31	20	21	90
50. Luciano Cavalcante	Brazil	23	25	17	31	26	91
51. Guilherme Lobo	Brazil	DNF	38	33	13	9	93
52. Paula Alter	United States	12	28	24	32	40	96
53. Jose Hermida	Brazil	27	20	24	25	42	96
54. Mandel B. Leite	Brazil	34	15	25	34	23	97
55. Billy Dominy	United States	28	23	23	23	35	97
56. Luis Augusto Lima	Brazil	22	24	37	26	25	97
57. Phil King	Australia	29	28	28	17	27	100
58. Eduardo Serrano	Spain	27	36	30	24	19	100
59. Ricardo Rovira	Spain	29	30	41	21	20	100
60. Geoff Walsh	United States	35	32	19	25	27	103
61. Ingo Dalibor	Brazil	36	DNF	28	28	18	110
62. Luiz Nogueira	Brazil	27	20	DNF	21	DNF	111
63. Francis Petras	Tahiti	32	35	25	26	32	115
64. Jorge B. DeMello	Brazil	25	31	33	29	31	116
65. Ricardo Dubeux	Brazil	26	26	DNF	DNF	24	117
66. Enio Ferreira	Brazil	30	26	30	33	DNF	119
67. Luiz Lobo	Brazil	24	34	23	41	38	119
68. Gil Bezerra	Brazil	26	35	26	34	34	120
69. Rubens Futuro	Brazil	30	34	40	32	26	122
70. Eugenio Juca	Brazil	9	DNF	38	35	DNF	124
71. Jeovah Lucena	Brazil	22	41	35	29	40	126
72. Pedro Oliveira	Brazil	32	33	31	36	33	129
73. Hanjo Zimmermann	Germany	36	30	32	40	31	129
74. Ben Cunningham	United States	DNF	29	36	30	36	131
75. Geraldo L. Rosa	Brazil	DNF	33	26	39	34	132
76. Joao Guimaraes	Brazil	39	36	27	33	41	135
77. Luciano Motta	Brazil	37	37	29	37	37	140
78. Bruce Fields	United States	42	41	39	31	29	140
79. Luis Dubeux	Brazil	40	DNF	32	8	41	141
80. Michel Recamier	France	40	39	34	36	36	145
81. Christian Banks	United States	31	DNF	35	43	39	147
82. Benny Siemens	Italy	DNF	31	41	37	38	148
83. Vince Herrera	Philippines	37	39	37	38	37	149
84. Michelle Stacy	United States	39	40	36	38	36	149
85. Pedro Da Fonseca	Brazil	38	38	39	40	35	150
86. Doug Hislop	New Zealand	43	40	39	42	32	153
87. Valdir Dias	Brazil	35	37	40	DNF	DNF	155
88. Mark Fallwell	New Zealand	41	42	DNF	35	42	160

On Saturday morning, the seas were white capping, yet the breeze seemed lighter. Tension was only noticeable by the lack of conversation as each sailor concentrated on the day ahead.

Guilherme Leite from Brazil, along with Rolf Peter Voelker, also from Brazil, took early leads but with Piccolo and Figueroa close behind, it could have been anyone's race. Downwind, Figueroa moved into second. Rounding C-mark, he stayed high on the fan-like wind, making him the high boat. For the third time in a row, he was in the lead. With this win the title was his — he wouldn't have to sail the last race of the championship. Screaming along in the lead, Figueroa did the impossible... he flipped. The gasping of the racers who were watching from the hotel balconies could be heard all the way down the beach. Figueroa had the event almost won, and now was drifting upside down as the race went on. With his adrenaline running, Figueroa righted his boat, allowing only three boats to pass him. He quickly passed two boats (probably with fire in his eyes) and finished third. Piccolo went on to win the race, with Leite in second. Bashford, Collier and Metcalf had all picked up enough points in the last two races to put them out of reach of the first place trophy. It was between Figueroa and Salmon. If Salmon won the last race and Figueroa picked up his throwout (a sixth) they would tie. Figueroa would win with a 12th or better, should Salmon win the last race.

As the first five boats rounded A-mark, neither Salmon or Figueroa were amongst them. Figueroa rounded in sixth, Salmon was eleventh. All Figueroa had to do was stay upright and in front of Salmon and the championship was his. Mark Simon finished first in the final race, Bashford second and Paulo Jose Piatti from Brazil, third.

An ecstatic 17 year old sailor from Puerto Rico was the new Hobie 14 World Champion. Kitty Salmon had again finished second in a 14 Worlds. Always one of the most inspiring of Hobie 14 sailors, Salmon will certainly be ready for the upcoming 16 worlds, which will be held on his home turf in Tahiti this summer.

That night the trophies were presented to the top 21 skippers. Thank yous and appreciations for a well run regatta were delivered. With all the races tallied, and everyone's worst race disgarded, the top ten in the 1981 Hobie 14 World Championship were:

1. Enrique Figueroa, Puerto Rico
2. Kitty Salmon, Tahiti
3. Ian Bashford, Australia
4. Gary Metcalf, Australia
5. Hiro DeMeyer, Tahiti
6. Mike Collier, South Africa
7. Nelson Piccolo, Brazil
8. Eric Paofai, Tahiti
9. Anthony Duchatel, Australia
10. Walter Dreher, Brazil

The entertainment at the awards banquet was straight from Rio. With slow Latin music playing, one person commented that this crowd could never be kept interested for very long.

Moments later dancing girls in jeweled attire (some people in the audience were in shock, there wasn't much attire) made their grand entrance. More music, a fantastic juggling/musician act and then Hobie Alter was invited onto the stage to dance with the ladies making it a historic moment in Hobie history. An appropriate finale for an excellent championship.

The rest of the celebration took place at a local disco lasting until the early morning hours. It was a fitting end to the days of wind, sunshine, parties and camaraderie.

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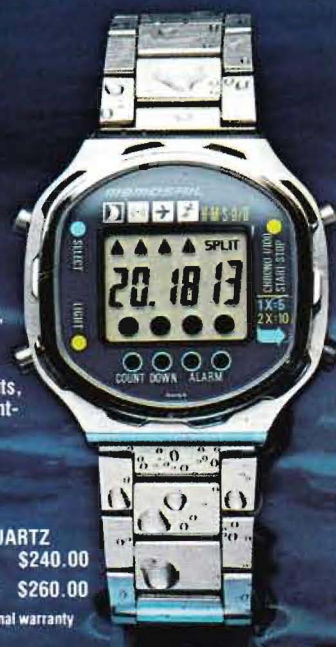
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