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50 Hobie 14's ready for the 1997 World Championship held in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

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Hobie 14 World Championship

by Ricardo Baretta, Fleet , Recife, Brazil

"It 's El Niño," complained some of the locals about the unusual conditions as teams from six nations gathered for the XII Hobie Cat 14 Worlds and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Hobie's original design.

Joining the party were local favorites Bruno di Bernardi, Brazil's Hobie 14 National Champion, and Andre Chang. Both arrived a month before the regatta, determined to keep the title in Brazil, but it was another local, Claudio Cardoso, the 1994 Hobie 16 World Champion, who did the honors.

In the first two days, the Germans, including Hobie 14 World Champion Kai Kröger, showed their strength, with Jens Ahlgrimm taking the lead after two bullets and a second. American Boyd Bass, with two bullets and a third, narrowly trailed Ahlgrimm, while Ronaldo Barroca, the Brazilian light-wind favorite, stood third.

On the third day, Ahlgrimm took another bullet, but was unable to shake the Brazilian Paulo Sergio, who posted a first and three seconds. Just in arrears were Bass in third, Odilo Gewehr, Chang and Ricardo Dubeux, who was quickly moving up the fleet. Where was Cardoso? "Not far," said Cardoso. "I'm only 24 points behind."



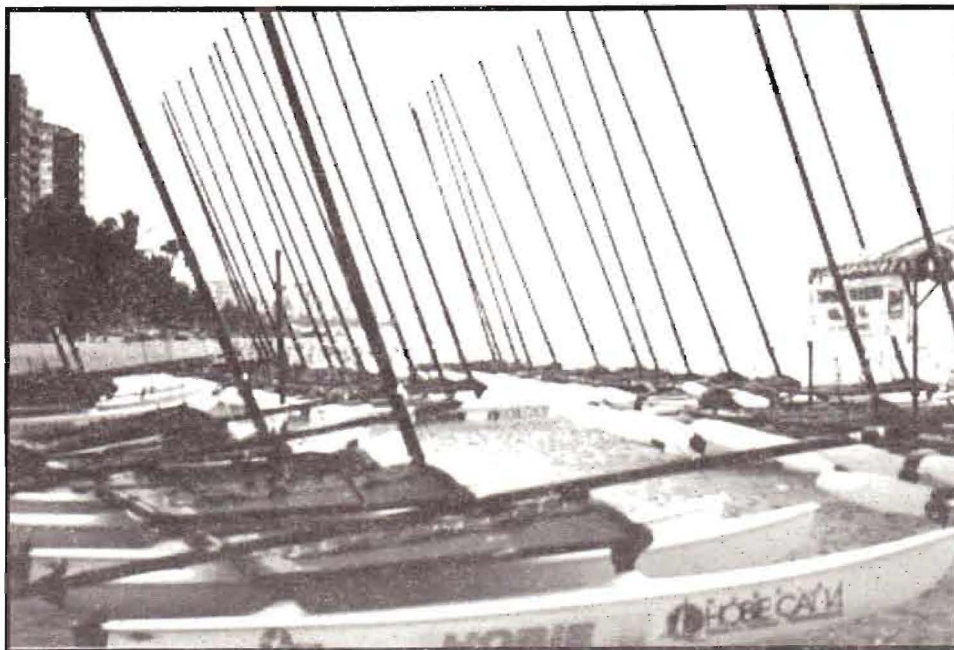
Beach in Recife, Brazil, site of 1997 Hobie 14 World Championship.

A 15-knot wind finally swept over the scene, forcing sailors to rethink their strategies and adjust their gears. "That's when you separate real men from the boys," jeered some. "Hobie Cats were made for speed." Speed it was. Some of the most beautiful starts drew praise from the spectators as the boats sped along the shore in what would prove to be an unusual and decisive day for the event.

Few competitors were able to hang on to their top-five positions. Those who did—Dubeux, Paulo Sergio Costa, Cardoso and di Bernardi—consolidated their chances at the top prize. Ahlgrimm dropped to fifth, tied with Andre Chang.

The final day's battle was fierce, as eight of the top contenders had a

chance at the title. With light winds again, Dubeux seemed to have lost his nerve and dropped to 23rd in the first of three races. With Cardoso, Chang, Costa and di Bernardi now closer than ever, after 20 races it all came down to the final race. Cardoso managed a fast start, led at the first mark and held on to win the title by a mere four-tenths of a point.



50 Hobie 14's line up for the World Championship in Recife, Brazil



Hobie Cat 14 World Championship

Recife-PE, Brazil

September 28 – October 4, 1997



1	Cardoso, Cláudio	BRA	66,60	-	8	-	12	5	-	-	4	8	-	-	9	-	2	5	5,6	1	3	12	3	1	
2	Chang, André	BRA	67,00	1	-	2	-	-	7	11	-	-	1	15	-	3	-	11	6	9	1	5	5	5	
3	Dubeux, Ricardo	BRA	68,00	-	10	-	17	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	3	-	7	1	4	2	7	23	8	4	
4	Ahlgrimm, Jens	GER	77,00	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	9	5	-	-	1	-	4	4	19	6	20	24	2	3	
5	Costa, Paulo Sérgio	BRA	81,00	2	-	-	2	-	2	3	-	-	4	1	-	2	-	23	13	13	5	2	12	20	
6	Di Bernardi, Bruno	BRA	84,00	-	5	-	13	6	-	-	12	-	16	3	-	1	-	2	2	5	2	19	11	6	
7	Cahú, André	BRA	106,0	9	-	5	-	19	-	5	-	4	-	-	2	-	1	15	17	4	5	6	21	14	
8	Bass, Boyd	USA	108,0	3	-	-	1	-	5	1	-	-	5	13	-	5	-	13	12	19	14	OCS	1	16	
9	Machado, Agenor	BRA	124,0	-	7	-	6	13	-	-	8	2	-	-	6	-	13	3	14	16	15	9	32	12	
10	Gewehr, Odilo	BRA	124,0	-	OCS	-	7	3	-	-	5	-	2	4	-	11	-	6	11	10	8	7	DSQ	18	
11	Barroca, Ronaldo	BRA	128,0	-	1	-	3	4	-	-	2	-	12	11	-	14	-	12	22	27	12	1	17	17	
12	Voelker, Rolf Peter	BRA	131,0	16	-	-	22	-	9	2	-	-	9	7	-	7	-	18	1	3	17	14	6	OCS	
13	Kröger, Kai	GER	139,0	-	9	-	8	7	-	-	6	11	-	-	12	-	8	7	9	18	10	21	13	28	
14	Cahú, Roberto	BRA	141,0	-	6	-	4	2	-	-	7	-	7	16	-	21	-	19	3	12	6	20	18	31	
15	Moraes, Rodrigo	BRA	161,0	-	11	-	5	9	-	-	1	-	3	17	-	16	-	30	20	8	16	17	1	22	
16	Alves Neto, Wilson	BRA	169,0	17	-	4	-	18	-	13	-	7	-	-	11	-	3	9	16	24	19	13	35	15	
17	Costa Da Silva, Carlos	BRA	170,4	6	-	-	11	-	15	21	-	-	8	8	-	9	-	14,4	10	11	30	10	28	19	
18	Sodré, Carlos Afonso	BRA	175,0	11	-	13	-	-	11	14	-	-	6	14	-	20	-	16	7	14	DNFOCS	10	2		
19	Figueiredo, Eduardo	BRA	177,0	OCS	-	6	-	10	-	4	-	12	-	-	16	-	10	36	25	7	28	8	7	13	
20	Barroca, Ricardo	BRA	178,0	OCS	-	11	-	-	3	9	-	-	17	2	-	10	-	26	5	21	DNF	32	4	7	
21	Piccolo, Nelson	BRA	191,0	7	-	3	-	16	-	8	-	15	-	-	10	-	18	20	36	17	26	11	30	10	
22	Goldfarb, Richard	BRA	201,0	15	-	15	-	11	-	16	-	OCS	-	-	4	-	12	24	31	30	21	4	9	9	
23	Correa, Paulo Roberto	BRA	218,0	10	-	17	-	-	4	23	-	-	14	27	-	24	-	14	24	32	4	3	22	35	
24	Dallman, Rolf	GER	222,0	-	OCS	20	-	-	8	-	10	9	-	-	14	-	9	29	23	26	13	25	15	21	
25	Leal, Gustavo	BRA	229,0	DNC	-	12	-	-	6	6	-	-	11	5	-	4	-	8	8	15	DNF	DNC	DNC	DNC	
26	Jucá, Eugênio	BRA	232,0	-	4	7	-	-	13	-	14	6	-	-	8	-	5	27	OCS	DNF	DNC	15	OCS	8	
27	Pasquier, Guy	FRA	242,0	-	12	21	-	-	OCS	-	11	32	-	-	5	-	11	21	40	20	27	16	24	11	
28	Seixas, Franklin	BRA	247,1	14	-	-	9	-	17	17	-	-	7	13	-	18	-	33	29	20,1	23	27	27	26	
29	Oliveira, Luis	BRA	249,0	-	18	-	13	12	-	-	16	16	-	-	7	-	6	17	26	35	36	22	34	27	
30	Lins, José Sebastião	BRA	258,0	5	-	8	-	23	-	12	-	3	-	-	15	-	14	DNF	30	33	31	29	23	32	
31	Wernecke, Carsten	GER	265,0	-	17	-	15	24	-	-	19	-	23	19	-	13	-	32	27	22	9	33	20	25	
32	Diedrichsen, Broder	GER	277,0	-	20	-	20	15	-	-	13	-	20	24	-	8	-	31	21	28	18	36	26	33	
33	Genova, Luigi	BRA	280,0	-	21	-	-	DNC	17	-	-	15	14	-	-	12	-	19	28	34	36	24	28	14	23
34	Viana, Elcio	BRA	282,0	-	3	18	-	8	-	24	-	13	-	22	-	19	-	22	39	29	34	30	31	29	
35	Gomes, Luiz Roberto	BRA	282,0	OCS	-	-	14	-	19	10	-	-	10	9	-	23	-	38	28	23	35	31	19	30	
36	Lira, Gésio	BRA	291,0	3	-	-	21	-	28	15	-	-	18	23	-	15	-	25	33	37	25	26	25	24	
37	Opp, Joachim	GER	298,0	18	-	-	10	-	10	30	-	-	19	6	-	25	-	39	35	31	33	18	29	34	
38	Schilling, Thomas	GER	298,0	4	-	27	-	-	20	7	-	-	24	29	-	12	-	40	15	25	32	34	33	36	
39	Lima, Antônio	BRA	301,7	-	13	-	18	20	-	-	17	-	25	21	-	17	-	34	18	34	22	24,7	DNFOCS		
40	Mynarski Silveira, Fern	BRA	311,0	-	23	10	-	-	24	-	24	10	-	-	13	-	17	10	38	38	29	DNF	36	OCS	
41	Dubeux, Mário Roberto	BRA	355,0	-	14	-	16	5	-	-	22	-	21	28	-	22	-	37	37	DNCDNC	35	DNF	DNF		
42	Vilanova, Jorge	BRA	369,0	20	-	14	-	-	14	18	-	-	28	30	-	6	-	35	32	DNCDNC	DNCDNC	DNCDNC	DNCDNC		



Start of Hobie 14's in the World Championship held in Recife, PE, Brazil in September, 1997.



Boyd Bass, finished 8th place. He and Ron Wagniere were the only US competitors in Recife.