

NEWS FROM ROHI AND JACK – TEAM TORNADO NT

DAY 2 - 2008 TORNADO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Day 2 presented as interesting weather wise; warm with squalls all around and pretty breezy.

Race 3 The boys were on the water early again but, this time, no dramas. The weather was very unstable and the sailors were warned that the start might be delayed because of the passing squalls. The course layout was the same as yesterday's – basically 3 upwind beats and 3 downwind returns. The start actually happened at 1 pm, as planned, despite the rain that hit the fleet! Rohi and Jack were wishing they had taken out spray jackets at this point! The breeze was generally 10 knots with regular 'squirts' (Kiwi speak for 'bullets') to 20 knots. The boys were doing well upwind but were not managing their usual speed downwind. They finished 31st over the line out of 52 boats. This brought them to 28th place overall.

Race 4 The course direction was changed a little for this race due to a general shift in wind direction. It proved to be a good race for the boys who played the shifts well and were rewarded. They were actually in 12th place around the mark at the end of their final upwind beat, however, some varying pressure on the downwind meant they lost a few places downwind and finished 18th over the finish line. This excellent result showed them what tweaking they need to do on the spinnaker set up tomorrow morning! It was a great morale booster to be up with the Olympic mighties! This brought their overall result to 27th out of the world's 52 best. They are now hungry for even better with only a few points between them and the 3 placings below. We'll see what tomorrow brings!

Bundock and Ashby, the first Aussie team, and the current ISAF first ranked team, had a much better day today as well, finishing in 8th place overall. The other Territory team also had a better day and is now occupying 43rd place .

Quote: Aaron McIntosh, helmsperson for New Zealand's top team, currently in 7th place overall. (The New Zealand Herald, Tuesday February 26, 2008):

“It was very tricky sailing...It is enjoyable racing because it is never over until it's over. The fleet sort of spreads out and closes up very quickly relative to the wind shifts and the gusts that are happening on the course..... It's funny, you could be in the 20s but still see a lot of good guys around you – it just goes to show the nature of this class. There's a lot of depth in the class and a lot of great sailors in the top 30.”

We included this quote to show you just how well the boys are doing considering their youth and their recent entrance into this Olympic sailing class. All the teams who will be competing in the Beijing Olympics in the Tornado class are competing here in Takapuna in the World Championships.