



Stu Robertson with crew Steve Mendenhall lead the fleet downwind in one of their two wins Tuesday.



2006 Lido 14 Class Championship Regatta

Huntington Lake, Calif.

July 10-12, 2006



Sponsored by Lido Fleet 6/Alamitos Bay



Hosted by Fresno Yacht Club

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Robertson winning big with rookie crew

HUNTINGTON LAKE, Calif.---Thirty-one years after winning his first Lido 14 Class Championship, Stu Robertson is on the verge of winning his fourth---his third in a row---after winning two of the first three of five races and nabbing second in the third Tuesday.

What is remarkable is that he's had a different crew each time, including his daughter Erin Frederick two years ago at Fernridge Lake, Ore.

What is more remarkable is that this time the jib sheets and whisker pole are being tended by Steve Mendenhall, 26.

"This was my sixth day in a sailboat ever," Mendenhall said. "It was fun."

The last four have been sailing last weekend's High Sierra Regatta and the first two days of the Lido event. So how did Mendenhall wind up in his current position, besides meeting the ideal size to complement Robertson for the 300-pound Lido minimum?

"I'm one of Stu's tenants," he said. "All I know is tack, jibe and reach."

But he's learning fast and has certainly been no liability. After



Pin-end start by (l-r) Papadopoulos, Wiese and Robertson.



Patrick and Dorothy Rygh took a post-race dunking.

following Kurt and Anne Wiese to second place in the first race, Robertson and Mendenhall tacked smartly time and again to keep another three-time champion (twice as crew), John Papadopoulos, at arm's length on the two-mile upwind leg before legging out a six-boat length win over Freddie Stevens, 23, and father/crew Fred of Long Beach.

Winds Tuesday were 10 to 15 knots with occasional soft spots in the seven-mile length of the lake. The 46 boats are split into Gold and Silver fleets of 23 boats each, and three of the latter required rescue efforts when they "turtled" upside down in the frigid water. There is a general rule that dunked sailors must come out of the water if they can't right their boats and re-board in 10 minutes, and most don't argue about it.

There were no injuries, and Michelle Wood and Carrie Harrington returned to sail the last race after their boat was righted and towed to shore.

Otherwise, there's a three-way dogfight for first place in the Silver fleet among Ronald and Nicole Runyan of Willamette, Wash,; Jeff and Tobi Zook of Santa Barbara and Nesbitt Ryder and Dina Ferrari of Newport Beach, each with nine points.

In the third race they started tight on the pin end where Robertson prefers to be, with Wiese and Papadopoulos close on their weather hip, and worked out to a solid lead by the weather mark---game, set, match as they say at Wimbledon. Nobody seems able to touch Robertson downwind. Sometimes he hikes the boat hard to windward, standard Lido style; sometimes he hikes to leeward, opposite everyone else, and occasionally he sails it flat, but whatever he does---and though his rookie crew may not understand it---it seems to work.

Freddie Stevens, sitting eight points back in second places with two races to go, said of the leader, "He's beatable upwind but downwind he's a magician. We were tacking on every [wind] shift and chasing every puff, but speed is everything downwind."

It was the sixth consecutive day on the water for the Stevens, who arrived at this 7,000-foot- high venue two days early to practice. But they suffered a setback on Day 2 of the High Sierra Regatta when their traveler broke loose at a start, causing them to miss the race. Then when they were a modest mid-fleet in the Gold group in the qualifying races Monday, they less happy than most of the campers here.

Their mood was better after Tuesday's racing with a 3-2-6 string that left them seven points behind Robertson and one ahead of Tom Jenkins and crew Christina Campolmi of Morro Bay, Calif.



Rescue team rights Michelle Wood (l) and Carrie Harrington's boat. They sailed the next race.



Fred (crew) and Freddie Stevens are in second place after 3 or 5 races.



Rookie Steve Mendenhall sets the whisker pole for Stu Robertson, seeking his fourth class title.

A photo gallery will be posted at www.UnderTheSunPhotos.com

High-resolution photos available free to media.

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Father Fred said, "We were ticked off yesterday, and we were still mad this morning," an attitude that must have improved their concentration.



This is the seventh Lido 14 Class Championship at Huntington Lake. Others have been sailed as far north as Sequim Bay, Wash., as far south as Club de la Pena, Mexico, and as far east as Buckeye Lake, Ohio.

Gold fleet leaders after 3 of 5 races:

1. Stu Robertson/Steve Mendenhall, Huntington Beach, 2-1-2, 4 points.
2. Freddie and Fred Stevens, Long Beach, 3-2-6, 11.
3. Tom Jenkins/Christina Campolmi, Morro Bay, Calif., 5-4-3, 12.
4. John Papadopoulos/Greg Rodgers, Newport Beach, 9-6-2, 17.
5. Kurt and Anne Wiese, Newport Beach, 1-8-9, 18.

Complete results: www.lido.org and www.abyc.org

MORE INFORMATION:

www.abyc.org

www.fresnoyachtclub.org/hsrdetails.htm

www.lido14.org/

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