

XVI Pan American Games



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Guadalajara, Mexico

October 17–23, 2011

Champions: Tito Gonzalez Mas, Diego Gonzalez Parro, Cristian Herman Sanhueza

We traveled to Vallarta one week before the start of the race. Because of a hurricane, we could not travel earlier.

Every day the wind for the first race shifted between two winds (210 to 240). It was very light and smooth. For the second race, the wind increased to 250 with greater force.

Our performance was lower in the early races, until the lay day, and from there onwards we went to improve

Llegamos a Vallarta una semana antes del inicio de las regatas.

A causa de un huracán, no se pudo navegar durante esa semana.

Todos los días el viento para la primera regata oscilaba entre 2 vientos (210 a 240) muy suave. Para la segunda regata ya el viento se iba a 250 con mayor fuerza.

Nuestro rendimiento fue menor en las primeras regatas, hasta el día libre, y de ahí en adelante fuimos me-



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from the third position to a tie for first place before the medal race.

To win the gold we had to beat USA and Brazil. We could not win with more than one in-between boat. The drama was on the water. The Lutz Team dominated the first half of the race, but after that control went to the Brazilian Team who was one step away from silver. It was a huge joy when we crossed the line. Team USA was immediately there to congratulate us.

High temperatures were a nightmare, but the support boat was full of all the water that we needed. The facilities and the organization for the races were impeccable. The wind was better than predicted, via the Internet, in the weeks leading up to the race. Those who were fortunate to stay in the Paradise Village, were lucky—it was a perfect choice.

The delivery of medals was on the Boardwalk of old Vallarta, out in the open air, lots of people, traditional music of Mexico (mariachis). After the ceremony we went to dinner with the President of the Chilean Olympic Committee and the entire Chilean Sailing Team—one night that inevitably ended with festivities and dancing.

Finally, I would like to say that all Lightning competitors were very fast and showed the highest level of competition.

I hope to see them in Toronto 2015 if God wills it.

forando para pasar de la tercera posición hasta lograr empatar el primer puesto antes de la medal race.

Para ganar el oro había que ganarle a USA y Brasil no nos podía ganar por mas de 1 bote entremedio. El drama estaba sobre el agua.

Los hermanos Lutz dominaron la primera mitad de la regata pero de ahí en adelante controlamos al brasilero también quien estuvo a un paso de ganar la plata.

Fue una alegría enorme cuando cruzamos la llegada, USA fue inmediatamente a felicitarnos.

Las altas temperaturas fueron una pesadilla, pero el bote de soporte nos surtió de toda el agua que necesitábamos y las instalaciones y la organización mas la comisión de regatas estuvieron impecables.

El viento estuvo mejor que las predicciones de internet a las semanas previas, y, los que tuvimos la suerte de hospedarnos en el Paradise Village, fue una elección perfecta.

La entrega de medallas fue en el malecón del viejo Vallarta al aire libre, con mucho público, música típica de México, (mariachis), y después fuimos a cenar con el presidente del comité olímpico chileno junto a todo el equipo de vela de Chile. Una noche inolvidable que terminó con fiestas y bailes.

Por último quiero decir que todos los competidores de la clase lightning estuvieron a la altura de las circunstancias mostrando gran nivel.

Espero verlos en Toronto 2015 si Dios quiere.

Alberto "Tito" Gonzalez



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It was a remarkable experience to sail in the Pan American Games. It's like no other regatta you could imagine, unless, I suppose, you are lucky enough to be part of the Olympics. The opening ceremony and the rush of adrenaline you get by walking, as a team, out of the stadium tunnel to the roar of the crowd to the opportunity to stand on the podium and get a medal cannot be described in words. It's a regatta where you go as a team, not just the Lightning team, but Team USA. You pull and root for your teammates, and everybody works together for the common good of the TEAM!

The sailing is intense. It's a small fleet, but everybody is good, and nobody gives anybody a break. Save your

safe covers and gentleman's agreements for another regatta. It does not happen at the PAG.

There is a lot of bureaucratic "stuff" that goes on pre regatta and during. It's not for the faint of heart or short of temper. When was the last time you were "pulled over" on the way in from a day of sailing to have your boat weighed again? I'm thinking, "Wait a minute, I had my boat weighed prior to the regatta. It was good then. Why won't it be good now??"

After being involved in this Pan Am Games, I now know how important it is for the Lightning to be involved. The exposure the Class gets from being involved in the PAG is tremendous. We may not be an Olympic Class (probably good), but we are a Pan Am Class. There are a lot of politics involved, but I am a believer now and support the Class in their objective to remain a Pan Am class. Word is, it won't be easy, but for future Lightning Class Pan Am Games teams, I hope we can do it.

There are many people smarter than me in this regard, but the Class needs to look towards some developing Pan American countries to increase interest as a Pan American class. I have been told some Caribbean countries are interested, but they have no idea how to get involved. This may be an area of dialogue.

Jody Lutz



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Pos	Skipper	Crew	NOC	Sail #
1	González Alberto	Gonzalez Diego, Herman Cristian Marcos	Chile	CHI
2	Lutz Jody Ward	Gauger Derek Kazan, Lutz Jay Wesley	United States	USA
3	Biekarck Claudio	Da Silva Marcelo, Ficker Gunnar	Brazil	BRA
4	Hall Peter William	Megan Armitage, Jane Armitage, Leger Chantal	Canada	CAN
5	Santos Juan Miguel	Herrera Sebastian Alejandro, Santos Juan Andres	Ecuador	ECU
6	Cloos Juan Alejandro	De Mare Carlos, De Mare Villar, Julian Augusto	Argentina	ARG
7	De Rienzo Aroldo	Gentry Gerrit Neil Douglas, Porter Kenneth Alejandro	Mexico	MEX





Lightning Final Results



Points per Race										Medal	Total	Net
R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Race	Points	Points
4	2	4	1	-6	1	2	1	3	2	6	32	26
1	3	1	-6	4	2	4	2	2	3	10	38	32
3	1	-7	2	2	3	5	3	6	1	8	41	34
2	6	6	4	3	-7	3	4	4	4	2	45	38
5	4	3	-7	5	6	1	5	1	5	4	46	39
6	5	2	3	1	4	6	-7	5	6		45	38
-7	7	5	5	7	5	7	6	7	7		63	56

