

Dear BSRA,

Thank you so much for your continued support of my sailing campaigns. I really appreciate your generosity in allowing me to travel to Miami, Florida to compete in this year's Orange Bowl Regatta. Sailing with my new partner, Piper Blackband, in the C420, we ended up placing 6th out of 73 boats after 4 days of racing.



We arrived almost a week before the event started, giving us plenty of time to rig our boat, get with the rest of our team, and sail the venue to get a feel of what the race days would be like. The first couple of practice days had decent northwesterly winds, giving us good trapezing practice, and shifty conditions as the breeze was coming over the city front. On one of our last practice days, we did some races with the local Coral Reef sailors, and did well in the light south easterly breeze which was also how it was forecasted for our regatta days. Then, the day before the regatta, after a short session out on the water, we headed back to our airbnb to get some rest for the big event ahead.



The first day was a light south easterly as expected, and after speed towing out, it was go time. My usual first start butterflies were especially fluttery, but disappeared after we had an awesome start at the pin, and tacked across the fleet. Unfortunately, Piper and I weren't quite as speedy as some of the other teams, but we still stuck with the top pack and finished in 6th. After another good start on the second race, we finished in 6th again although we were in 3rd around the last top mark. I was itching for more racing as I knew Piper and I could breach the top 3, but due to postponement earlier in the day, we were out of time and the race committee called it a day.

On the second day, which was still qualifying, the wind was almost exactly the same as the day before. After warming up and doing research on the line, we were ready. The whole day, Piper and I started very well, having confidence in our line sight and pushing it even though it was a black flag. It was shifty as well, and thanks to our coach Victor having taught us how to use the compass, we had very nice first beats, which put us in the top pack every race. We had a strong day with four races, finishing with a 3, 5, 3, 3.

We qualified for gold, and the harbor start was pushed earlier on the third day, so we towed out extra early to get as much time to do research before the first start. The first race went well: we started punched, rounded the top mark in the top five, then passed a boat on the reach. Unfortunately, we couldn't gybe around the reach mark, which ended up costing us a couple of places, so we finished in 6th. The remaining 3 races didn't go as well, as we had a hard time getting off



the line - my voice was dying since I was a little sick from allergies at our air bnb, so our communication during the start struggled. Even still we were in 4th going into the last race, but ended up placing 6th overall. On the last day of the event, we had a super early harbor start in hopes of getting some races in, but mother nature didn't cooperate, and it was dead the whole day.

All in all, this was an amazing experience for me. I had so much fun competing at this event and I learned a ton! I'm super happy with how Piper and I performed, but I also can't wait to keep racing as I know I have the potential for more. Thank you so much again for all of your help - I wouldn't be able to have these great opportunities without you!



Sincerely,
Dylan Sih