

Dave Perry describes it as the “Match Racing Bug”, and once you have it you can’t shake it. Since my first match race five years ago, I have had the bug. This summer I initially intended to do a few events, as I was participating in two finance internships and attending the London School of Economics, but when US Sailing gave me the US berth at the 2025 Youth World Match Race Championship, I decided to go all in.

Unfortunately, the way my schedule lined up, Youth Worlds happened to be my first event. I was a little rusty going into the event, but my team was stacked with good sailors and more importantly, good friends. Kelly Holthus and Cam Spriggs joined from SDYC, along with Sammy Hemans and Peter Barnard (Chicago YC). We were sailing five-up, making us heavier; many other teams were sailing four-up.

We arrived in Gdynia, Poland a day early to get used to the time change. We did a little bit of sightseeing, and I couldn’t help but feel the Soviet historical presence ingrained into the culture and architecture. Poland was a Communist country in 1989. The next day it was time to get to business. One of my biggest challenges was that, after a long day on the water, I was completing my virtual internships in the evenings. In the round robin series, we struggled. All the Europeans had access to the RS21’s, so their boat handling and speed was much sharper than ours. But we managed to squeak our way into the quarter finals. We were up against the #2 seed British team. We narrowly lost the first two races in the first-to-three series. I would like to think that was a purposeful tactical decision to make the Brits overconfident. We decided to tweak some boat handling and speed things. We tried out something new. My dad who was there coaching us noted that the Brits were sailing the boat with much more heel. So as a last ditch effort we tried sailing the boat with more leeward heel and it worked. We managed to win three races in a row and advance to the semifinals.

In the semis, it was two American teams and two French teams. We were against the French who were about 200 pounds lighter than us and the eventual champions who sailed a beautiful regatta. In the two races we sailed, we beat them off the line but due to the painfully light air they slowly ground us down and passed us. Then the breeze entirely shut off and there was no more racing. That meant we finished fourth, which I believe our team was happy with. There were 15 other teams that consisted of the best U23 sailors in the world who had more exposure to the boats and match racing.

This lifetime memory would not have been possible without the support of the BSRA.

Thank you to my crew who committed time to sail with me. My last thank you goes out to my parents for their continued support!

