

For Immediate Release
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DAY TWO AT THE CLAGETT

Doerr, Angle and Donohue Retain Lead in Sonar

NEWPORT, R.I. (August 29, 2007) – Five years ago, Rick Doerr (Clifton, N.J.) and Tim Angle (Somerville, Mass.) placed fourth overall at the 2002 World Disabled Sailing Championship and guaranteed the U.S.A. a spot at the 2004 Athens Paralympics in the Sonar class. A year later the pair went home empty-handed when they finished second at the U.S. Paralympic Trials to select the team that would be the representative in Athens. Now, with the addition of Bill Donohue (Brick, N.J.), they are competing in this week's C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Regatta to further their chances of making it on the second try. If their performance at this event is any indication, things are looking good so far for this team which has been the U.S.A.'s number one ranked disabled sailing team in the class for the past two years.

"We made some bad decisions in the first race, and we were over early in the second race and had to restart," said Donohue at the end of the day. Explaining that they sailed "conservatively" in race seven, he acknowledged that the team was pushing to win. "We have to sail a good game tomorrow and if we're careful we'll be ahead."

With today's finishes of 5-3-2, and after seven races overall, Doerr, Angle and Donohue remain the fleet leaders with 16 points. Israel's 2004 Sonar Paralympic Gold Medallists Dror Cohen and Aaron Efrati, with new teammate Rafael Levi, remain second 10 points back and are separated by just one point from Bert Foster (Wayzata, Minn.) with Jim Thweatt (W Sacramento, Calif.) and David Burdette (Lutherville, Md.) who are fresh from their win of the US Independence Cup/North American Challenge Cup.

In the SKUD 18s, Karen Mitchell (Deerfield Beach, Fla.) with 2004 Sonar Paralympic Bronze Medallist J.P. Creignou (St. Petersburg, Fla.) moved up to first overall after finishes of 3-2-2 today brought their total score to 15. Scott Whitman (Brick, N.J.) and Julia Dorsett (West Chester, Penn.), recovered brilliantly from their rough opening day during which they had snagged a lobster pot – to win all three of today's races. They are now second overall with 16 points. 2005 Rolex Yachtsman of the Year Nick Scandone (Fountain Valley, Calif.) and Maureen McKinnon-Tucker (Marblehead, Mass.) dropped from the top of the scoreboard to third overall after finishes of 5-3-3 today for 17 points.

The 2.4 Metre class completed four races with Charlie Rosenfield (Woodstock, Conn.) continuing to hold the overall lead after finishes of 2-2-1-5 brought his score to 17. Qi Ming Xue (Beijing, China) moved up to second, after finishes of 4-3-2-1 displaced John Ruf (Pewaukee, Wisc.) whose finishes of 1-4-3-3 have him tied with Xue at 19 points each. Mark Leblanc (New Orleans, La.) retained fourth place when an OCS in race six negated the effect of winning race five. He has 21 points. Ke Li (Beijing, China) is fifth with 30 points after today's finishes of 5-5-4-4.

Light and variable winds briefly delayed the racing today which is taking place from headquarters at Sail Newport. However, once the wind strengthened and settled the race committee set the course south of Rose Island which presented a perfect view of the racing for the spectators gathered at the north end of Fort Adams. The third and final day of racing takes place Thursday (August 30), with awards presented at the conclusion of racing.

Complete results, photos and additional information can be found at: www.ussailing.net/Clagett/

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