

Team Maclaren Will Represent The USA At The 2012 Olympic Games!!

May 7, 2012

Weymouth, UK

We won! We are representing the USA at the 2012 Olympic Games!!

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It was an incredible series, especially today, but we rallied hard at the end and won the series 6-3 over Team Barkow. The day started with rain and pretty good breeze and waves. This didn't deter the race committee who got started right on time and race one was underway.

We had a very good start in race one. Team Barkow hit us from behind and got a penalty as we approached the start line. We were able to take the right hand side and we extended to a two-length lead at the top mark. Downwind, we held our lead until the bottom of the leg where she caught a nice wave and surfed up to our stern as we rounded the mark. Upwind she caught up to us and made a few attempts to draw back the penalty on us. We sailed clean and rounded the top mark ahead. On the downwind leg, we sailed to the corner of the course before gybing and that allowed her to get over the top of us and into a position to try and get us back. We misjudged our positioning and tried to sail over the top but failed and she luffed us aggressively earning a second penalty. From there the race turned to a blur, but she ended up coming back to us, luffing us hard again, this time us earning a penalty. We got stuck head to wind trying to clear our penalty, she spun her remaining penalty and took the race. (Photo: copyright Richard Langdon/Ocean Images 2012)

It took another race for us to settle down, and when race three came around, we were back on track. Race three and four were very similar in how they were sailed. We won the right on the line and were able to defend it up the course. At the top she was one length behind us and we were able to hold her off on the downwind legs. The last downwind leg of race four got a little more intense. We were racing to keep our breeze clear each time we surfed which we were able to do until the last three lengths of the race coming into the finish line. I slightly misjudged where her breeze was and we gybed away but fortunately, for us, with just enough speed to cross the line despite our kite wrapping in on itself. But we had a half length lead which gave us the race and the series.

Emotions Ran Rather High

Photos: copyright Richard Langdon/Ocean Images 2012

We are overjoyed with winning the series. It was an incredible amount of work and as a team we are extremely proud to be representing the USA at the 2012 Olympic Games. We owe a big 'thank you' to coach Dave Dell for keeping us solid throughout the series. Also a big thanks to Scott Weiss for fixing us and making us healthy again for the next day of sailing.

We got a lot of encouraging emails throughout the week which were great to receive and kept us going. We appreciate everyone's support. Team Barkow sailed an amazing series and the races were much, much closer than the final score indicates. Both they and Team Tulloch are two of the best teams in the world and we want to thank them for having kept us going in our training and pushing hard throughout the whole campaign. Now the Trials are over, we are focused on the next major goal, Olympic Gold. We have a week and a half off and then it's back to training in preparation.

We would very much like to thank our Title Sponsor, Maclaren, our Gold Level Sponsors 11th Hour Racing and Laser Performance, and our Bronze Level Sponsors Carmeuse, Trinity Yachts, Chicago Match Race Center, and Sperry Top-Sider for their continued support of our campaign for the 2012 Olympic Games. We would also like to thank St Francis Sailing Foundation, and US Sailing Team Sperry Top-Sider and its sponsors for their continued support. Also, thank you to our private donors. Please remember that any and all donations/contributions to our campaign should be made payable to Sailing Foundation of New York, in the memo write 'Anna Tunncliffe' and send to Sailing Foundation of New York (this one is tax deductible); or to Anna Tunncliffe (via PayPal). (Please follow the links for more information. Thank you.)

Sail Hard,

Anna

Team Maclaren

And as usual, don't forget, email us your questions and comments. We love getting them and sharing our love of sailing and women's match racing.

Anna: 4D's: "Dream, Desire, Dedication, Discipline" TM

Team Maclaren: 3P's: Passion...Performance...Perfection...TM