ILCA North American Championships & San Pedro Olympic Classes Regatta Update

This summer, much of my focus has been on sailing in the Olympic waters of San Pedro, California, the venue for the 2028 Olympic Games. In June, I completed a productive 12-day training block there, gaining valuable experience on the future Olympic racecourse and developing a better understanding of the venue's unique conditions. This training block laid the foundation for two key regattas in July: the ILCA North American Championships and the San Pedro Olympic Classes Regatta (SPOCR).

As with any regatta, there are always unexpected challenges. Despite our extensive preparation on the Olympic racecourse, the race committee utilized several different racing areas throughout the two events that we had not anticipated. This required us to quickly adapt to new conditions and reinforced the importance of being versatile and prepared for any venue configuration—especially when competing at the highest level of international sailing.

The ILCA North American Championships served as an excellent opportunity to evaluate the progress made during training and prepare for the more consequential SPOCR the following week. I finished 17th overall and was the third-highest American sailor. While I was pleased with my overall speed and consistency throughout the event, the final day provided an important learning opportunity. Going into the final race, I was sitting 12th overall and leading the North American standings, but a few costly tactical decisions in fleet management allowed several competitors to move ahead in the final standings.

It was a valuable reminder that success at the international level depends not only on boat speed but also on understanding the bigger championship picture, managing the sailors around you, and making sure the boats you are racing against stay behind you.

I was able to immediately apply those lessons at the San Pedro Olympic Classes Regatta. This event was unique for several reasons, including being the first time the ILCA class utilized the Vakaros race management system in competition. This technology provides instant and accurate feedback on starting-line positioning, including identifying boats that are over the line even when their sail numbers are obstructed by other competitors. It significantly changes the starting strategy and reduces the number of wasted races caused by general recalls, and black flag starts.

It was exciting to find myself racing near the front of the fleet during several races throughout the event. The front of the fleet is a much more controlled environment than in the middle of a large international fleet. With shorter races and large fleets, small mistakes can quickly become costly. In several races, I rounded the first mark in the high teens but ultimately finished much deeper in the fleet after struggling to find clear lanes and create

space on the racecourse. This was an important lesson that I will carry forward into future World Sailing events, where positioning and decision-making in traffic are just as important as raw speed.

The SPOCR carried significant importance for the U.S. athletes, as it served as the qualification event for the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Fortaleza, Brazil. I was able to put together a strong performance, finishing as the top American sailor and securing my berth for the 2027 World Championships. This is an important milestone in my Olympic campaign and provides another opportunity to compete against the best sailors in the world as I continue building toward Los Angeles 2028.

I am incredibly grateful to the Annapolis Yacht Club Foundation for making opportunities like these possible. Your continued support allows me to train and compete against the world's best sailors while representing both Annapolis and the United States on the international stage. Every training block and regatta provides invaluable experience that continues to move me closer to my goal of competing at the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.