

Day 3 Viper 640 NAs: Bigger Breeze and Swells Separate Standings



MARBLEHEAD, Mass. (September 8): Saturday's breeze filled in as expected in Marblehead, bringing a fresh southerly of 14-18 knots and a stiff chop mixed with an energetic ocean swell that caused the best sailing of the regatta to date. Several teams separated from the pack over the day's four races, though the leaderboard remains tight going into the final day of racing.



Saturday's racing started at 1200 as scheduled and featured a steadily building breeze that clocked left in the middle of the day, allowing teams to port tack the fleet shortly after the start of Race 7. As the winds increased, so did the ocean swells, causing some wild rides downwind with boats planing and surfing at speeds over 14 knots consistently. The vast majority of the fleet stayed intact and managed the conditions well, and the tired crews were grateful for a mercifully short annual class meeting over the evening's dinner at host Eastern Yacht Club. Several teams received awards during the meal celebrating their placement in the "peloton", the Viper class's homage to the large, congested and competitive midfleet pack that can be difficult to navigate, while three other teams at the bottom of the standings received a brand new mainsail, jib and spinnaker courtesy sponsors Ullman Sails, Doyle Boston Sails and Evolution Sails.

(Top: Ben Steinberg from Newport, Rhode Island and his crew aboard *Mongoose* ripping through the surf off Tinkers Island in Marblehead. Photo by Leighton O'Connor)

Fer de Lance from Yarmouth, England, with Glyn Locke, Ian Nicholson and David Chapman, dominated the day with all finishes in the top four, winning Race 8, to move into first overall after discarding their 22nd from Race 5. Pieter Taselaar and his team aboard *Bliksem* similarly discarded their 23rd after winning the day's first race, and sit two points out of first. Taselaar has won three of the nine races in the series.

(right: Mild swells lead to big fun around windward marks at Viper 640 NAs. Photo by Leighton O'Connor)



Defending champions *Jackpot*, led by skipper Brad Boston, have the regatta's most consistent scoreline with all top 10 finishes, and a final race bullet left them ten points out of the lead, and in position to strike if either of the leaders sail a second bad race on Sunday that they are unable to discard. Six different boats have won the nine races sailed, with 23 different boats having at least one top ten finish in the series so far. Sunday's forecast is a mixed bag, with conditions likely to be lighter and shiftier, so the championship is still anyone's game.

Top ten after 9 races (scores include a discard – [full results posted on Yacht Scoring](#))

1. *Fer de Lance*, Glyn Locke (Yarmouth, UK): 1, 2, 2, 9, (23), 4, 3, 1, 2 = 24 pts
2. *Bliksem*, Pieter Taselaar (Scarsdale, NY): 2, 1, 7, 1, (24), 1, 4, 7, 3 = 26 pts
3. *Jackpot*, Brad Boston (Sarnia, ONT): 6, 3, 5, 6, 4, 7, (9), 2, 1 = 34 pts
4. *Mambo Kings*, Justin Scott (Greenwich, CT): 3, 5, 4, 7, 6, (10), 5, 3, RDG/5 = 38 pts
5. *Don't Forget Alice*, Rod Beurteaux (East Fremantle, AUS): 8, (12), 3, 4, 2, 6, 1, 11, 4 = 39 pts
6. *Argo*, Jason Carroll (New York, NY): 19, (DNF), 8, 14, 1, 5, 10, 4, 5 = 66 pts
7. *Pink Storm*, Barry Parkin (Riverside, CT): 4, 15, (35), 22, 7, 9, 2, 5, 6 = 70 pts
8. *License To Kill*, Tyler Moore (Hampton, VA): 5, (36), 1, 20, 10, 2, 6, 12, 15 = 71 pts
9. *Smokin*, Somers Kempe (Hamilton, BER): 13, 7, 15, (29), 21, 12, 8, 8, 7 = 91 pts
10. *3 Grins*, Dave Nickerson/Moise Solomon (Mystic, CT): 14, 10, 10, (24), 8, 13, 18, 9, 13 = 95 pts

The Viper 640 North American Championship will be held September 6-9, 2012 at Eastern Yacht Club in Marblehead, Mass. For more information about the event, please visit the event website at 2012na.viper640.org. The Viper 640 is a 21-foot sportboat known for its speed and simplicity. For more information about the boat, please visit the class website at www.viper640.org.

The 2012 Viper North Americans is presented by EFG Bank, with additional support from Bacardi, Rondar Raceboats, Atlantis Weathergear, Ullman Sails, Doyle Sails, Evolution Sails, North Sails and Mauri Pro Sailing.

