

Qingdao/China/Team Red Bull Extreme Sailing/ Races begin Wednesday

Austrias carbon bullet against Americas Cup teams

The second stop of the nine-race global Extreme Sailing Series starts on Wednesday in Qingdao (China), which was the venue for the Olympics 2008. At the first stop in Muscat/Oman the Team of Hagara/Steinacher (AUT, Craig Monk (NLZ) and Will Howden (UK) got the season off to a sensational start with third place. The Newcomers sailed their 14-meter long and 20-meter high multihull brilliantly, leaving distinguished teams in their wake including Alinghi (SUI), Americas Cup victors in 2003 and 2007, as well as the defending Extreme Sailing Series champion, The Wave, Muscat (Oman).

Qingdao (CHINA) - Hans-Peter Steinacher, the tactician on board for Red Bull Extreme Sailing, announced: We managed to surprise people with third place in Oman. Theyll be watching us more closely now because weve broken what was expected to be the dominance of the A-Cup teams. The team Hagara/Steinacher/Howden/Monk will try to use their collective experience stand up against the daunting might of the opposition. Hagara/Steinacher as well as Will Howden (UK/trimmer) competed in the 2008 Olympics in China.

We know these waters well, said skipper Roman Hagara. We spent a lot of time here both before and after the Olympics in 2008. For the double Olympic champion, who will be competing in the Extreme Sailing World Series against 10 other teams with the best sailors from 15 nations, that means one thing: But were looking to do well in every race because we want to have a say in the overall championship. Anyhow, were here to win.

To achieve that goal the team is working hard on perfecting tactics. I won the Americas Cup twice, said the new bowman, Craig Monk (NZL). But this boat is just unbelievable. Its brutally fast. Its damn hard to sail.

With five days of racing for each stop and thus a total of 35 days of competition, it will be essential for the team to preserve their strength for precisely the right moments. Monk said: Every manoeuvre feels like a 100-meter sprint.

Including Sunday, there will be up to six races each day in Qingdao. The competition begins each day at 1 p.m. local time (8 a.m. Central European Time).

Pictures available free for charge for editorial use. Credit: Red Bull Photofiles

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Official interim results and live ticker: www.extremesailingseries.com

Team webpage: www.redbullextremesailing.com

World Series 2011:

Act 1: 20-24 February, Muscat, Oman

Act 2: 13-17 April, China

Act 3: 25-29 May, Istanbul, Turkey

Act 4: 30 June 4 July, Boston, USA

Act 5: 6-12 August, Cowes, GBR

Act 6: 14-18 September, Trapani, Italy

Act 7: 28 September 2 Oktober, Nice, France

Act 8: 12-16 October, Almeria, Spain

Act 9: 7-11 December, Singapore