



Red Bull Extreme Sailing Team against World Elite

One Year after Serious Injury Hagara Bets on New Crew

Red Bull Extreme Sailing kicks off on 20 February 2011 in Muscat, Oman. In the first-ever Extreme Sailing World Series, the newcomers led by the two-time Olympic champions Roman Hagara / Hans Peter Steinacher (AUT) will participate against 11 teams from 9 countries, including America's Cup winners Alinghi and Emirates Team New Zealand.

MUSCAT/OMAN. After an instructive and partially successful rookie year (12 stage wins, 32 top-three finishes) for Austria's most successful summer athletes, the ultimate showdown awaits them at sea. With personnel changes, with a new coach, and after a several-week-long winter training camp all signs are that Red Bull Extreme Sailing is ready to rumble. From Sunday onward, the crew around skipper Hagara will appear in the Middle East, USA, Europe and Asia, finding itself next to the most successful syndicates in the world at the starting line.

The start of the World Series of the 40-foot catamaran (14 feet long, 20 meters high, up to 75 km / h) takes place in the Sultanate of Oman. Races in Qingdao (China), Istanbul (TUR), Boston (USA), Cowes (UK), Trapani (ITA), Nice (FRA), Almeria (ESP) and Singapore will then follow.

"It will take brains and guts to make it tough for the big syndicates," says tactician Hans Peter Steinacher. New recruits Will Howden (UK) and Craig Monk (NZL) will play their part. Trimmer Howden was under contract in 2010 with one of the top teams (ECOVER). The new bowman Craig Monk who claims an Olympic bronze medal and two America's Cup victories as his own, is considered a national hero in New Zealand, a country crazy about sailing.

Hagara, a year ago at the top of the rankings, was forced to go to the hospital after a capsized in Oman left him seriously injured. But he has erased the accident from his memory: "The road back was rocky, but that's behind us. We will be sailing this year at least as hard and maybe even riskier to handle the circumstances. We've got two top people, we've trained hard, and we've learned a lot. And we have a plan."



If you believe the bookmakers, it will be the teams from the America's Cup competing mainly for the title in the nine races of the World Series. Red Bull tactician Hans Peter Steinacher (two-time Olympic champion in the Tornado) doesn't think much of this idea: "With us, hopefully, the ones who win will not be the teams with the most money. Which means enormous personnel. Artemis races with 25 technicians. Team Alinghi has 17 men. This is quite a difference between us and them, and it is legitimate. I still think the best sailor will win the race. "

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