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20th February

H.O. Nash's Gibson Wins Youth Valentine Regatta

By Dahalia Smith

HO Nash's Michael Gibson accumulated eight points from five races in the Butler and Sands 19th Valentine's Day Massacre Optimist Invitational on Saturday at Montague Bay, winning over 13 others.



...Out front in the annual Valentine Catch Me If You Can race. Lady Natalie had a huge lead at press time.

St. Andrew's Danny DeCardenas and National Youth Sailing Champion Christopher Sands finished with a total of eight points apiece as well.

Since all three of the top sailors finished with eight points apiece, the winner was based on the results from the final race.

As a result, Gibson won by finishing second, DeCardenas placed second after finishing fourth in the fifth race and Sands finished 12th in the fifth race for third place overall.

In addition, the sailors were allowed to drop their worst finish.

Gibson dropped his worst finish (third place), DeCardenas dropped his worst finish (fourth place) and Sands dropped his worst finish (12th place).

Edwin Thompson from DW Davis accumulated 14 points for fourth place, St. Andrew's Bruce Hall place fifth, registering 21 points, DW Davis' Shaquille Dean placed sixth with a total of 24 points, Abe Hamilton (unattached) placed seventh with 27 points and DW Davis' Gerzario Anderson totaled 28 points,

rounding off the top eight finishers.

Placing ninth was DW Davis' Wenzel Knowles with 29 points, CH Reeves' Eldrith Smith finished 10th with 32 points, CH Reeves' Ron Smith Junior accumulated 35 points for 11th place, Rebecca Hamilton (unattached)

totaled 43 points for 12th place, HO Nash's Gary Laing accumulated 50 points for 13th place and CH Reeves' Vernal Reckley totaled 56 points for 14th place.

Jimmie Lowe, The Bahamas Sailing Association's Youth Programme Director, said that the field in the second annual children's event grew from eight to 14. He added that the goal is to grow in numbers with every year.

"One of the highlights of this year's races is that we had three young skippers finish in a three-way tie. This shows that the competition has stepped up a notch mainly due to the fact that the children's skills have been improving and they have more sailing experience," Lowe said.

Assisting Lowe with the race was one of his protégés, Nyoshie Rolle.

Last year Eleazor "Sailing Barber" Johnson, founder of the Valentine's Day Regatta, said that he would

have liked to have more students observe the optimist class races.

After the optimist races were completed on Saturday, Johnson told The Bahama Journal that he was satisfied with the students' turnout this year.

"There were more children this year who came out to watch the races and there were also a lot of families present. Jimmie Lowe did a good job organizing the children's races and it seemed as if the kids enjoyed themselves," Johnson said.