

Optimists at Queensland Youth Week



38 Gold Fleet and 21 Green Fleet Optimists gathered in Queensland last weekend for Queensland Youth Week. Members of the Australian Optimist Sailing Team arrived a day early to train with coach, Rob Brewer in the venue that will be critical in the selection of the Australian team for the Worlds in 2010.

Optimist sailors and their families travelled from Victoria, NSW, WA

and New Zealand to join the Queenslanders.

The Optimist fleet has taken a leap forward in numbers throughout Australia in the past few months. The opportunities for excellent fleet racing, high level coaching, travel both interstate and overseas and the "level playing field" created by strict class rules has contributed to this surge in numbers. Optimist sailors travel to interstate regattas with only their sail as charter boats are available.

Conditions were mixed throughout Queensland Youth Week but a consistent James McLennan, from Victoria, achieved five race wins to take the "Gold" medal. Other than James, there were four other race winners in the ten race series.

Final Results:

James McLennan (Victoria)

Nia Jerwood (WA)

Lloyd Collins (Victoria)

Mark Spearman (WA)

James Brewer (NSW)

Lloyd, Mark and James will be traveling to Brazil to represent Australia in the International Optimist Dinghy Association World Championship later in the month.

