

## Top youth match racing sailors heading for Hardy Cup

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By John Roberson and Peter Campbell

Eight of the talented young match racing helmsmen and their crews who contested the Warren Jones Youth Regatta on Perth's Swan River this week are now heading for Sydney and next week's Hardy Cup.

West Australian skipper Torvar Mirsky became the first Australian to put his name on the Warren Jones Youth Regatta trophy for a second time, when he beat New Zealand's Adam Minoprio in the final on the Swan River.

This was a battle of the two immediate previous winners, with Mirsky defending the trophy, while Minoprio had won in 2006.

Minoprio had dominated the regatta through the early stages, while Torvar Mirsky only claimed his place in the final at the end of the qualifying series, but carried the momentum of his improving form through into the final.

In the petit final, another New Zealander, Laurie Jury, beat Perth skipper Robert Gibbs 2 – 0 to take third place.

The RSYS team of Stuart Pollard, Mark Dorling, Ben Barzach, Ian Quartly and Tom Reece, finished eighth overall but are confident of a better result back on Sydney Harbour.



Team Pollard (orange) vs Team Robertson (brown)

After racing in the bigger boats used for the Warren Jones Regatta, Pollard will also be back aboard the match racing boats he knows best, the Squadron's Elliott 6s.

After his win yesterday, Torvar Mirsky is keen to achieve his first win in the Hardy Cup, an ISAF Grade 3 youth match racing regatta, with racing from Monday next through to Thursday on the Harbour.

Adam Minoprio won the Hardy Cup last year after a fifth in 2006 while Mirsky's record has been a seventh and a fourth. Stuart Pollard finished third in the 2007 event while Laurie Jury was runner-up to his fellow Kiwi last year.

Others coming from Perth to Sydney include Robert Gibbs (AUS), Evan Walker (AUS), Keith Swinton (AUS) and John Bäck (SWE) where they will join Australians women match racing sailors Nicky Souter and Nina Curtis, along with Josh Junior (NZL) and the RSYS Youth Team for the Hardy Cup.

Warren Jones Youth Regatta 2008 results:

- 1 Torvar Mirsky (AUS)
- 2 Adam Minoprio (NZL)
- 3 Laurie Jury (NZL)
- 4 Robert Gibbs (AUS)
- 5 Phil Robertson (NZL)
- 6 Evan Walker (AUS)
- 7 Keith Swinton (AUS)
- 8 Stuart Pollard (AUS)
- 9 Tom Spithill (AUS)
- 10 John Back SWE
- 11 Richard McPharlin AUS
- 12 Dylan Clark AUS