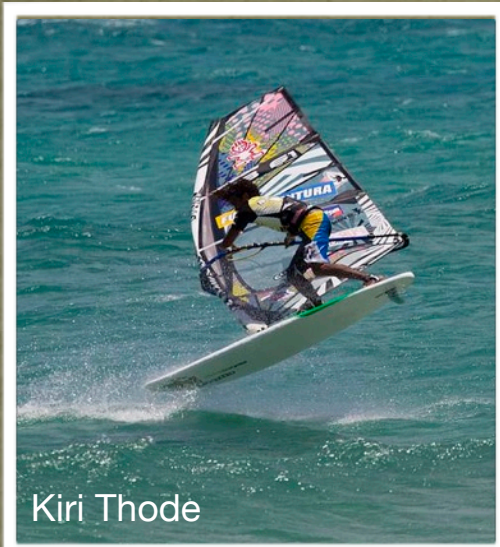




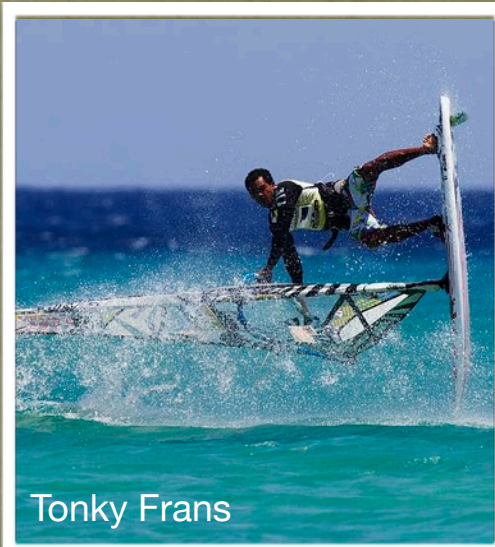
PWA WORLDCHAMPION

Sarah Quita Offringa

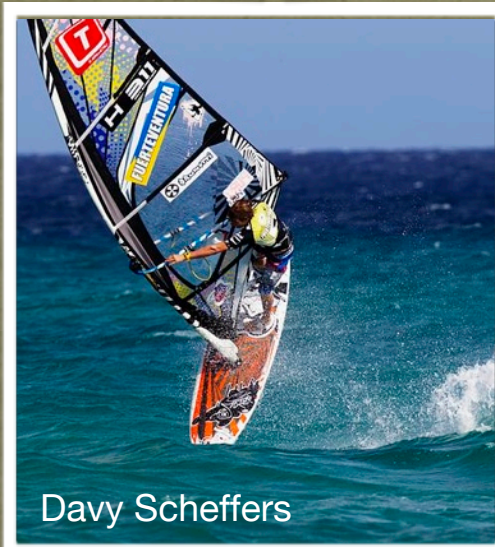
all pics (c) PWA / John Carter



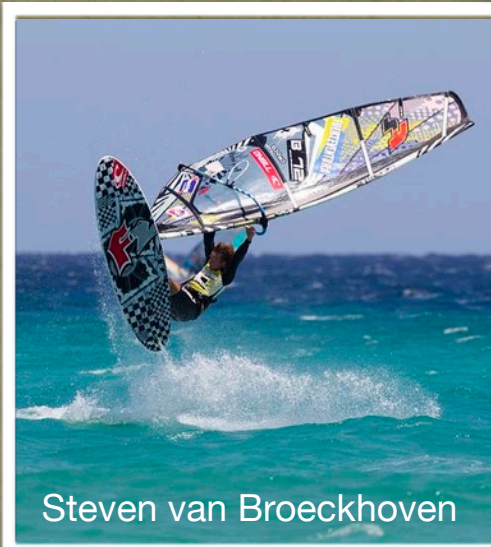
Kiri Thode



Tonky Frans



Davy Scheffers



Steven van Broeckhoven

Sarah Quita Offringa has shown her dominance and claims her 4th PWA Freestyle World Title. This girl is running hot right now and looking to possibly claim yet another title this year... Wait and see!

I got a chance to sit down with Women's WC and get a little insight into her thoughts....

MP: Wow, Sarah Quita, I must say this has been a great year for you and you just added more icing on the cake! What is this, number 4 or 5 for you??? I would say you are getting better and better! How are you feeling right now?

SQ: Hi Matt ! Thanks a lot. This is my 4th freestyle title in a row. and even cooler for me is that I haven't lost a single freestyle heat in 4 years.

When I sailed my last heat in Fuerte and they had announced that I had won it. It felt like some pressure was relieved off my shoulders which up until then I wasn't aware I even had !

It made me really happy to still be congratulated by the people on the beach and the sailors for my performances. That's given me a lot off motivation for next year already. Now I'm back in Holland getting ready for the slalom event in Turkey and it all feels like a dream to me even though the competition ended just a few days ago..

MP: It seems like winning is in your blood- do you have any secrets we should know about?

SQ: If I had any concrete tactics I would happily share them but I don't. I think you need to be in a certain state of mind... where no goals are impossible to achieve. Aiming for the highest but then again not completely expecting so you don't build too much pressure for yourself... I'd say that's the way I tackle every competition :)

MP: I know you train a lot with the boys.... Who is your mentor or do you have some guys that are teaching you some moves?

SQ: I always trained with the boys because they were pretty much the only ones doing freestyle in Aruba and also in Bonaire. When my brother and I sail together we always watch each other and give each other feedback and tips on the moves we're doing. But anytime I'm sailing with anybody who is pulling off moves that I'm training I'll just go and ask what their secret is or watch them closely. Sometimes it's better to sit back and study a move instead of just trying and trying without any success. But for other moves you need to switch off your mind, grow balls of steel and just go out and do it ! (double loop here I come !!)

I really want to complement the guys in freestyle though it's crazy how high they've pushed the freestyle level and for me it's really inspirational.

MP: From what I hear, you have some style that would shut down some of the boys on tour, any comments on that?

SQ: Yeah I've heard from some guys that I could actually compete with the boys.. Which I actually wanted to do last year on the EFPT tour but I couldn't find the time for due to all the PWA competitions. I'd love to because then you don't have anything to lose and you can really boost your level in competition. We'll see next year !

MP: You have been winning slalom events as well- do you think that competing in both disciplines makes you a better competitor?

SQ: Yes I think it does. In the end it's still called windsurfing regardless of the type of board you're sailing on. Meaning I can apply freestyle skills during my slalom sailing like reacting fast during jibing or knowing how to fall to get back up as fast as possible. And now after all the slalom sailing I have a better idea of how I should rig my sail so I can get the most out of it for freestyling.

MP: Which discipline do you prefer?

SQ: Well to be honest anytime I get the chance I'll step on my freestyle board. You just have so much freedom ! Perfect if you want to train the latest moves but still if you just feel like cruising you can go right ahead. You won't reach max speeds but the thrill of planing and skimming across the water is still there. But like everybody else I also love slalom for the speeds you can achieve so regardless of the discipline I'm doing I'll still have the biggest smile on my face!

MP: What are you going to do to celebrate this World Title? Are you gonna go out and buy a new Ferrari or a big lifted up truck? What is the plan?

SQ: Yeah definitely ! I was thinking about getting me a nice sailboat and go sailing and fishing somewhere in the Caribbean... that would be perfect :P

Noo.. I definitely still need to celebrate it though! Party coming up soon ;-)

MP: Is there anyone you want to especially thank for getting you where you are today?

SQ: Well first and foremost I thank God for the talent he's given me and that I could have made it this far up until now. And I often forget to say it but my parents and my brother are my biggest role models and I can't thank them enough for their never ending support and patience with me. The people at the windsurfing centers in Aruba at AAV and VELA who have helped and supported since I started and still do : Paul, Wim, Mac, Darwin, Enry, Monique, Leo. The BULA surf shop crew and all the local surfers at the huts. Definitely all my friends for the motivation they gave me to do my best. Just the support from other riders and people from the places I've been to... BIG BIG THANK YOU !

MP: Well congratulations again, I know what it takes to win these championships and it is awesome to see you living your dream and making it happen! Keep it rolling....

SQ: As we say in Aruba : Masha Danki ! Thank you very much. Let's keep it rolling !