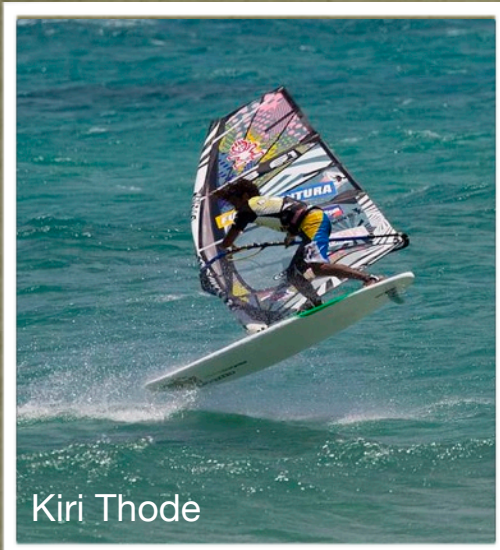




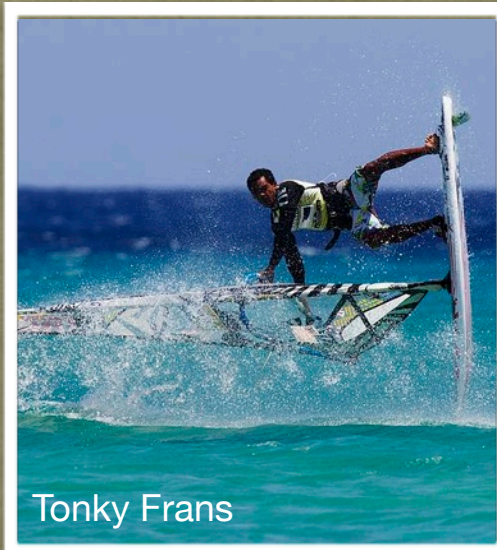
PWA WORLDCHAMPION

Steven van Broeckhoven

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Kiri Thode



Tonky Frans



Davy Scheffers



Sarah Quita Offringa

After 6 events on this years PWA FreestyleTour, Steven Van Broeckhoven adds his name to the few listed as Freestyle World Champions. Steven has come on strong over the past couple years and proves he is the man to beat for the next years! Interview with PWA World Freestyle Champion Steven Van Broeckhoven!

Hey Steven, Congrats on an incredible performance this season! You have been on a mission and this World Title shows the work and dedication you have put in!

MP: I would imagine you are still in shock over the World Title- tell us what you are feeling right now.

SV: It's hard to get the feeling I have right now. It's something totally new as I never thought this could happen. But I know I worked extremely hard to achieve this. So I'm really very happy and even more motivated to train even more and more because I know this is all possible.

MP: The season didn't start out so well for you in Vietnam, you had an injury and then were forced to play catch up- looking back, do you think this helped you out? Sometimes injuries can be a good thing?

SV: I was ready for Vietnam and the conditions there suited me well because I had trained in difficult conditions. So I wanted to win the event or at least be on the podium because I realised that it would be more difficult in Bonaire and Aruba. At the time of the injury I feared my season was over, but 6 weeks of revalidation on doctors advice I could get into the game again. Podersdorf was the first big test and I won the event, so I was stoked! I got to Bonaire immediately to train for the next events there but the wind didn't play ball. So the injury certainly had influence to proof myself to be in the top as soon as possible.

MP: Gollito has won the past 3 years in a row, have you been studying him and how he operates or what do you attribute to your success?

SV: Gollito is the king in Fuerte and Lanzarote when there are strong winds and waves. The last year I focussed on training in waves. Kiri is the flat water king and I tried to equalize him as much as possible with my own style.

MP: There were some close battles between you and your fellow team-mate Kiri Thode, tell us about your relationship with him? Are you guys friends, do you train together or what is the story there?

SV: Kiri is a very good friend and I believe he's the most technical freestyler in the world. In competition the judges decide so we can't blame each other for that.

MP: What sort of training do you do outside of windsurfing? Do you have a coach or spend a lot of time in the gym? What are your day to day programs?

SV: For me it's difficult to schedule because I'm always traveling. But in the future I plan to do more sports beside of windsurfing.

MP: Did you expect to win the PWA tour this year? I'm sure it was a goal of yours but did you think it would come in such a short time?

SV: It's my 3rd year in PWA and a few years ago I thought it would be impossible. But I trained hard for it and I managed to win the title.

MP: I know it is not all peaches and cream.... Tell us about any challenges or problems you may have had where you had to dig real deep and man up- anything?

SV: At the start of the competition season the flights to the destinations wouldn't bring my gear or only with very high costs. Then there was my injury. But I realize it's not only glitter and glamour but also these darker sides. Luckily I can quickly focus on the main things again.

MP: How important is gear selection? It is pretty obvious you are dialed in to your equipment but really do you think you have a big advantage with your stuff or just a little advantage?

SV: The right gear is one of the most important issues, and it has influence on your style. Besides that it's the person himself who has to get the best out of it.

MP: So then, what is the secret that makes your sails so good?

SV: The Gaastra PURE is a very powerfull and super stable sail also during ducking which is very important for the latest powermoves. Even in 40 knots of wind the pure is easy to duck.

MP: What are your thoughts on other disciplines- waves or slalom, does that appeal to you?

SV: I adore wave sailing. It's pure fun for me and it gives me adrenaline to jump high. That's why I like South Africa in winter where I can train in waves and in freestyle 50%-50%.

I like slalom a lot! Racing against each other is great competition. I regularly go out on a slalom set and I enjoy tuning the equipment.

MP: Now the monkey is off your back- having a World Title under your belt is a huge accomplishment.... What is next?

SV: Good question...I just continue the things I do now and my future dream is also to do well in other disciplines.

MP: Well a big congrats, I know how much work goes into winning a world title. It is great to see you pull it off! Not everyone is capable, there is a lot of talent out there but it takes something special and extra to win! Any one in particular that you would like to thank that has helped you along your way?

SV: First of all I'd like to thank my family who brought me to the water. They always supported my choices. I'm very happy with all my friends and the atmosphere in windsurfing. Also very important was the support of my ex-team The Bunch who pushed me into the international competitions. And of course all my sponsors. Thanks to them I could achieve my results. At this moment words seem not enough to say thank you to everybody!