



# PRESS RELEASE

For more information, contact:  
Nicole Jacques, International Etchells Class  
207-450-9943, nmjacques@gmail.com

## Jud Smith is Six-time North American Champion

**Smith maintains his lead for a third day on the water, May 3-5, 2007, in Houston, TX**

HOUSTON, TX—Jud Smith's trophy shelf just got a bit more cluttered. Saturday evening he took home his sixth Etchells North American Championship trophy—his fourth consecutive win since 2004. Jud ended the seven-race series with a 14-point lead over his closest competitors in the Galveston Bay regatta, sailed Thursday through Saturday, May 3-5.

There was solid competition for the second and third place spots, which went to Hank Lammens and Chris Busch respectively. The two boats tied with 22 points each, but the tie-breaker went to Hank who ended the regatta with more times in the top spots. Hank and his crew, Dwayne Smithers and Peter McKenna, also took home the second annual Corinthian Cup, awarded to the top-finishing boat sailed by an all-amateur crew as determined by ISAF ratings.

Following a day of sailing in difficult, diverse wind conditions during three races on Thursday, the fleet spent Friday playing shifts and searching for pockets of pressure. The breeze came in Friday morning out of the south at eight to 10 knots across flat waters, but didn't have staying power. After a steady shift to the left in race two, the winds died out, until a light seabreeze ultimately filled from the east for the last race. Jud took first place in all three races sailed.

Saturday brought a return of strong winds averaging 14 to 16 knots from the southeast, with only one race left to sail of the seven-race series. Marvin Beckman, who had been a consistent top-10 boat for the first two days, broke out of the start and took an immediate lead that he never gave up through to the finish. Jud rounded the first mark in an uncharacteristic seventh place, but he quickly picked off boats to get into second by the next windward rounding. Hank Lammens and Jud battled it out for the second-place spot around the next two roundings, but it ultimately went to Hank at the finish, putting Jud in third.

The 2007 Etchells North American Championships was sponsored by the Houston Yacht Club and the Texas Corinthian Yacht Club, North Sails One Design, First American Title, Hall Spars and Rigging, Gulf Coast Composite, KO Sailing, Classic Cafe, Pusser's Rum, and Marblehead Rigging.

The International Etchells class, established in 1967, is comprised of dozens of fleets located around the world, including 34 fleets across North America. Almost 1400 boats have been built and sailed globally. For more information about the International Etchells Class, visit the website at [www.etchellsna.org](http://www.etchellsna.org).