

Teenage PE sailor takes top honours in Dubai

By HELGA VAN STAADEN

TEENAGE sailing sensation Justin Onvlee scored top honours at the 5th Dubai International Sailing Week regatta.

The Grey High School pupil competed against 115 yachtsmen from 14 countries in the week-long event.

The competition was held at the Dubai International Marine Club from January 23 to 29. Justin was one of three South Africans who competed in the regatta.

The 15-year-old from Kragga Kamma started his yachting career five years ago when he was introduced to the sport by a friend.

Although he had other sporting interests such as hockey and surfing, Justin excelled in yachting and found little time for anything else.

He competed in his Laser 4.7 in the regatta, despite only having sailed in this class for the past eight months.

He sailed in 14 races and won the overall competition with 16 points. There were 30 competitors in this class.

This has not been the first international competition for Justin.

He competed last July in the world yachting championships in Turkey and was placed 17th. He has also travelled to Italy, China and the United States to compete in various international events.

Justin's supportive parents, Jill and Robert, said they were extremely proud of their son's achievements.

"We try to watch all the races he competes in," they said.

The modest Justin said he was very happy to have won the competition, but his main aim was to "end in the top 10 at the next world championship".

Justin has been awarded Eastern Province and South African colours several times for sailing.



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Top: Justin Onvlee scored top honours at the 5th Dubai International Sailing Week.

RIGHT: Justin on his Laser 4.7

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