



INGE SCHABORT
Gold medal

SAILING

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SA women lose controversial final and bag silver

NEVILLE LANCE

SOUTH AFRICANS Belinda Klaase and Margot Brache won the silver medal in the women's multi-hull section at the world sailing championships at La Rochelle, France yesterday, but the final was clouded in controversy.

The South African pair were lying only two points behind the leaders Kerry Ireland and Vicky Tanner of Australia and leading them by a considerable margin when they were thrown into a wind "shadow" by the men's keelboats.

The keelboats had started within three minutes of the multi-hull event, and it was enough to foil the South Africans, who were well ahead at that stage. Caught with no wind, the pair fell back and finished last. However, they had accumulated enough points to take second place overall.

Lisa Holman and Judith Herald of Transvaal took the bronze medal.

The South Africans captured five of the 24 championship medals yesterday, four of them in the multi-hulls and

one in the men's keelboats.

In the multi-hull open division, Blaine Dodds and Steve Arnold of Plettenberg Bay fought back in the final to finish sixth and win the silver ahead of fellow South Africans Shaun Ferry and Alison Lewis, who won the bronze.

William and Lucinda Edwards finished fourth to share fourth place overall, giving South Africa a remarkable three in the first four of this 99-boat international fleet.

In the men's keelboat division, the Cape Town combination of Chris King and Rick

Nankin and men crew, Nick Baikoff, Gary Farrow and Chris Hathaway, pulled off a fantastic first place in the Grand Fleet race to take the bronze medal after going into the race in sixth position overall.

The event was won by Sweden's Magnus Gravare.

In the women's keelboat section, Shelley Potts and her crew on the J22s finished second in their Silver Fleet section.

On Friday Inge Schabort and Gillian Anley won the gold in the women's multi-hull Silver Fleet.