

# M24★USA

The Official Magazine of the US Melges 24 Class Association

Volume 3 ★ Issue 3 ★ Summer/Fall 2006

[www.usmelges24.com](http://www.usmelges24.com)



## 2007 Acura Key West Race Week

The Melges 24 Fleet continues to lead the numbers in Key West, Florida at the 2007 ACURA Key West Race Week Regatta. Get ready as the U.S. Melges 24 Class heads into another phenomenal year of Fleet growth and unparalleled racing. Be sure to register early! Visit Premiere Racing online at [www.premiere-racing.com](http://www.premiere-racing.com)

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## US MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION

Dear Melges 24 sailors:

Welcome to the 2006 Melges 24 U.S. National Championship at the Florida Yacht Club ("FYC"). FYC has been the gracious host to the Melges 24 Class at the Kings Day Regatta for the past fourteen (14) years. The Regatta Chairman, Pat Lambert, and PRO, Rick Preston, have been involved in Kings Day since the beginning. Pat and Rick have delivered some of the most memorable Melges 24 racing and parties in the history of our Class. Further, FYC and its members have treated the Melges 24 sailors with grace and true Southern hospitality. On behalf of the USMCA, I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude and appreciation to FYC, its members, Pat and Rick for the unmatched support and enthusiasm they have shown to the Melges 24 fleet during the past fourteen (14) years and for hosting the 2006 US Nationals. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the event sponsors that consistently contribute to making our Class great. For the Nationals, the sponsors are *Latis Yachting Solutions* (title sponsor), *LayLine*, *Melges Performance Sailboats* and *Quantum Sails*.

Looking ahead to the 2007 year, we anticipate another record breaking attendance at the legendary Key West Race Week. More that 60 Melges 24s are expected to attend. Next is the St. Petersburg NOOD where we have seen substantial growth in the Corinthian fleet. The event has boasted a 90% Corinthian competitor field and we expect another 30 plus boat participation. The Annapolis NOOD and Detroit NOOD are other great events that have strong Corinthian involvement and large fleets. Of special note, is the 2007 Fullpower Melges 24 World Championship in Santa Cruz, California held in early May. The event web site is **[www.melges24worlds2007.com](http://www.melges24worlds2007.com)**. The Santa Cruz Yacht Club, with title sponsor Fullpower, is planning an unforgettable event. In particular, I would like to recognize Bret Gripenstraw, USMCA Class Member and Regatta Chair, who is in charge of hosting the event. The USMCA cannot express its appreciation enough to the many class members who volunteer their time and efforts to make these events possible. It is an enormous undertaking and would not occur without class members like Bret. The 2007 Nationals will be held in Detroit, Michigan in the early Fall. Detroit is one of the fastest growing fleets in the U.S. and is definitely the most fun. For those of you who have not attended a Detroit regatta, it is a must. The full 2007 schedule of events will be announced soon.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the other Executive Officers and Board of Governors of the USMCA for 2007. Travis Weisleder has agreed to serve as Vice President of the USMCA and as a member of the IMCA Executive Committee. Travis brings a wealth of experience in marketing and good walking around sense to the Class. He is the primary reason I accepted the nomination to serve as President. Andy Burdick will continue to serve as the builder representative and Joy Dunigan as the Class Communications Director. Both of these individuals add enormously to the Class in so many ways. The District Governors are the heart and soul of the USMCA and are active in building and communicating with the local fleet members. The 2007 Board of Governors are: Southeast District Governor: Reid Collins, *Gulf Coast District Governor*: Matt Mayo, *Midwest District Governor*: Mike Dow, *Northeast District Governor*: Bill Carleton, *Northwest District Governor*: Paul Bennett, *West Coast District Governor*: Don Jesberg.

Please visit the USMCA online at **[www.usmelges24.com](http://www.usmelges24.com)** for each District Governor's respective contact information. This is one of the strongest and most enthusiastic Board of Governors the Class has ever seen.

In addition, I cannot thank the outgoing officers enough for their leadership during the past two years. District Governors Bill Blank (Northeast) and Ryan Hamm (Southeast) both added enormous enthusiasm and were critical in growing the fleets in their areas. The Northeast fleet has quadrupled in size and has become one of the most active Districts during Bill's tenure. Ryan Hamm leaves large shoes to fill, as his enthusiasm, personality and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty are legendary. He has maintained the Southeast's status as the largest Melges 24 District in the U.S. Lastly, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Karen Gottwald for all she did as the Class President and for hosting the 2006 Corum Melges 24 World Championship at the Ocean Reef Club. Her leadership and management skills will be sorely missed.

In closing, I wish everyone a fun and safe National Championship and look forward to seeing you on the race course. Please stop by *Team Satisfaction* and introduce yourself.

Cheers,

Scott Gregory

USMCA President, IMCA Vice Chairman (U.S.)



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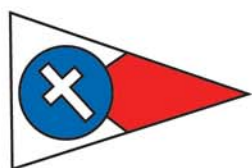




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# all in a decades work

Every year, for the past fourteen years the Melges 24 Class has relied on the Florida Yacht Club and the team of Pat Lambert, Regatta Chairman and Rick Preston, PRO for the King's Day Regatta. It is a guaranteed good time, great food and a hospitable atmosphere. Most of all, the fleet looks forward to ending each year with some of the most competitive Melges 24 racing — kind of like saving the best part for last, that is the King's Day Regatta to a "t".

Also known as the Melges 24 Atlantic Coast Championship, Pat knows getting everyone registered, weighed, dealing with logistics, the awards, etc. every single detail is a big deal. He campaigns this event from Lake Geneva to Melbourne walking up and down the docks, making introductions, making sure everyone is taken care of.

On the course side is PRO, Rick Preston and his numbers with the fleet equal the years. Rick runs a professional, well-organized race committee that knows the Class inside and out. Even in 2005, it was no sweat when the fleet numbers topped more than fifty.

Then, there are the off the water activities. The Florida Yacht Club has greeted the Class each year with enthusiasm, rolling out the red carpet over and over again without hesitation. The staff is accommodating and the facilities superb, the food simply the best.

The USMCA salutes Pat, Rick and the entire Florida Yacht Club as we appreciate you graciously hosting the 2006 Melges 24 National Championship. We are grateful for everything you do and the invaluable support provided to the Class each year.



Regatta Chairman, Pat Lambert



Hot, Melges 24 racing action is almost always guaranteed at the King's Day Regatta/Atlantic Coast Championship.





Bick Greyson Photography www.bickgreyson.com

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## Bill Carleton, USA-378 ★ Tiburon ★ USMCA Northeast District Governor

It is hard to believe that the first time Bill Carleton arrived on the Melges 24 scene was just a short two-and-a-half years ago — it seems like yesterday! He serves in the capacity of Annapolis Fleet Captain, and most recently pledged his role as USMCA Northeast District Governor. When speaking with Bill you can almost immediately detect a genuine love for the Melges 24. That same fervor carries through to his crew. He has worked diligently, side-by-side with past-Northeast District Governor, Bill Blank and other area fleet captains such as J.C. Raby in Newport, Rhode Island and Simon Strauss in New York to strengthen participation, increase the fleet size and his ideas get even bigger — the North American Championship in 2008 and the 2009 Melges 24 World Championship, both set to be hosted in Annapolis, Maryland!

### **M24\*USA: Where you grew up and/when did you begin sailing?**

**BC:** I spent the majority of my younger years growing up abroad, primarily northern Africa, the mid-East and southeast Asia. I've sailed a few Hobie's and other small crafts in the tropics, but only for pleasure or while on vacation. After attending high school in Northern Virginia I went to Virginia Tech, where I met what is today still one of my closest friends. His family had a Beneteau First 235 that they raced out of Urbana, Virginia and that was my introduction to racing on the Chesapeake Bay. I was hooked from the start.

### **M24\*USA: You have one of the most enthusiastic crews. Who are they, their positions and roles on the boat and what do they love the most about the Melges 24?**

**BC:** I've been blessed to have been surrounded by not only some great crew, but some great friends as well, which really rounds out the experience for me. I've had a few folks on and off the boat depending on the event, life's commitments, etc. But, from the beginning when I first purchased USA 48 and was still trying to figure out which way the pointed end went, were Dave Puckett (jib/bow) and Elizabeth McMartin (bow). Two additional regulars are Andy Clemenko (aka Mongo) who trims spinnaker and Tim Borland on jib and tactics. The

three of us have really gelled well together so no matter who else comes on and does bow we still tend to fare well. The key for me has been surrounding myself with great crew that I can trust to get the job done so I can focus on driving the boat.

### **M24\*USA: Have you got any speed tips you would like to share?**

**BC:** The one thing we really focused on more this past year was being super aggressive with our rig tuning as the conditions changed. There have been some races where we would come on or off the rig tension as much as two to three times a leg upwind. It has helped us get a better feel for how the boat handles in different conditions to help keep our speed on. Now we can almost immediately tell when we're a little too strapped or too soft on the rig and make an immediate adjustment.



### **M24\*USA: You the new 2007 District Governor for the Northeast, and are also spearheading a number of hot initiatives; Tell us more.**

**BC:** Growth and interest in the Melges 24 within the Northeast District and my home port of Annapolis has increased exponentially in the past year and a half. I'd like to see that continue and one very good way of garnering more interest is to get some key class events on the schedule. I've made it a personal goal to spearhead the hosting of the 2008 North American Championships and subsequently the 2009 Worlds in Annapolis. The town's centralized geographical location on the east coast coupled with the vast maritime support facilities and establishment, proximity to the commercial port of Baltimore, tourist and family friendly setting, and great sailing conditions make it an ideal location to attract competitors from all over the U.S.

and Europe. Planning for these events has already started with Eastport Yacht Club taking the lead on hosting the initiative and with Quantum Sails and VC Performance Rigging already pledging their support. You can expect a stellar event — from the landside activities and logistical support to phenomenal on-the-water racing action!

### **M24\*USA: As the 2007 Northeast District Governor, what are your aspirations for the upcoming year as District Governor?**

**BC:** I did a lot of traveling with my boat this past year and would like to continue to do so. Obviously I'd like to see others travel, both in and out of district, to events but believe one of the keys to growing the class and garnering more interest is by holding more one-design events within the local fleet. Class newbies may be shy on traveling with the boat, but once they get the one-design Melges 24 bug they'll start to venture out to events beyond their backyard. I'd like to continue to see the class grow and more and more boats traveling to a few key events throughout the District to help boost regatta numbers and thereby help increase the class' visibility to potential owners.

### **M24\*USA: What 2007 key events in the Northeast would you encourage folks to attend?**

**BC:** Obviously all the NOOD events (Annapolis, Larchmont and Marblehead) are well run and tend to attract a good crowd, plus you can't go wrong with any event in Newport, RI. I'm also hoping the 2007 Annapolis Fall Flail/Cheasapeake Cup will also be a national point regatta leading up to the 2008 NA's and 2009 World's, so that will be a key event on the schedule. But I can't dictate the schedule alone, so with the 2006 season coming to a close fleet captains and members from throughout the Northeast will need to again come together and jointly determine our key regatta schedule for next year. I'm sure we'll keep the NE District Championship series alive again, which this year comprised the results from the Annapolis NOOD, Newport Regatta, Gold Cup, Larchmont NOOD and Annapolis Fall Flail. This proved to be a good way to encourage travel and the spreading of a couple key events to several venues in the District.



# USMCA



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## NOT DESPERATE ANYMORE



### Melbourne Fall Regatta ★ October 28-29, 2006 ★ Melbourne, Florida



The Fall Regatta hosted by the Melbourne Yacht Club in Melbourne, Florida is always a Melges 24 crowd pleaser! This event occasionally serves as a fun, yet competitive regatta ramping up the competition and excitement for the next major — in this year's case, the **2006 National Championship** to be held in Jacksonville, Florida. Corinthian competitor and newly appointed USMCA Southeast District Governor Reid Collins and co-owner Gary Umberger reigned supreme continuing an awesome winning streak. 2006 WFORC Champions, Reid and his *Desperate Measures* crew came out top once again. Jeff Duval came in second, followed by John McElwain in third and, none other than the sickest of all Sick Puppies — Steve Jones and Eric Andrews! John Harrison rounded out the top five.



Photos courtesy of Rick Greyson / rickphotos.com



# Interview: Reid Collins

Reid Collins, USA-604 ★ *Desperate Measures* ★ USMCA Southeast District Governor

Many may recognize and associate the name Reid Collins with one of the greatest Melges 24 regattas in the Southeast region — the **Southeast Inland Championship** held each year on Lake Lanier, just north of Atlanta, Georgia. If you have ever participated at the SEIC, then you have seen the incredible level of organization and passion that Reid has for the Melges 24 class. For 2007, he has committed that same drive on a regional scale by serving as USMCA Southeast District Governor. No doubt, past-Southeast District Governor Ryan Hamm has left behind big shoes to fill but, with confidence Reid's approachable, fun personality and enthusiasm his reign will be just as successful.

**M24\*USA: How long have you had your M24 and what turns you on most about it?**

**RC:** I've been boat partners with Gary Umberger for 3 1/2 years, originally with USA-108, *Minnetonka II*, now with USA-604 *Desperate Measures*. What turns me on most about the Melges 24 is what I heard Scott Gregory tell someone not too long ago, "The Melges 24 is an easy boat to sail, but an extremely difficult boat to sail well. It is an extremely technical and tweaky boat that requires not stop attention to do well." I thoroughly enjoy the challenge of the boat and the sailors in the class are definitely some of the best you can possibly sail against. All of this forces me to be the best sailor I can be. In addition, there are few things that provide a better rush than being on a Melges 24 on a screaming plane on port wondering how things are going to shake out with boats on starboard as we approach the leeward mark in a pack with 8-10 others.

**M24\*USA: What are your top three, Melges 24 speed tips?**

**RC:** Being that I did not start racing sailboats until later in my life than a lot of the people in this class, practice is absolutely the most important speed tip I have. Time on the stick and understanding how to work with the people sailing provides more gain than anything with this boat. My second tip is to never stop thinking about how to make the boat go faster and encourage your crew to help you think about it as well. Often, we get caught up in the moment and forget about many gears the boat has to offer and discover ourselves further back than we'd like. Equally important to the first two are

good, clean, fast starts. This group is extremely aggressive at the start and being front row versus 2nd or 3rd row has a huge impact on speed and performance. Whenever we have poor starts, we are pretty down on ourselves as we know it will have a detrimental impact on our speed.

**M24\*USA: Tell me more about your crew. Who are they, their positions and roles on the boat. What do they love about the Melges 24?**

**RC:** As I previously mentioned, Gary Umberger is my boat partner. He and I actually alternate with the helm as we both absolutely love to drive the Melges 24. When he drives, I fly the kite and trim jib. When I drive, the roles reverse. We establish our calendar with helm assignments early in the year. Gary has been sailing Melges 24s longer than most and people in the class probably know his name better than they know mine. If I had to guess, I think he's been in the class seven or eight years. Gary is a huge competitor and think he loves the class for the level of competition it offers. Bryan Anderson, also an avid Thistle sailor, is our tactician and has been sailing since Gary and I first partnered up. I think what draws Bryan to the Melges 24 is it is a boat similar to the Thistle with a similar level of competition. Mike Kirschner works the bow. Mike is one of those guys who likes everything to be perfect on the boat. He truly enjoys the tweaking part of the boat. He's constantly making sure we have perfect sets and adjustments in the front of the boat are right. I've often asked him if he wants to drive and he will quickly tell you he loves what he does in the front of the boat. We really have an excellent crew. As with most, things sometimes heat up on the boat, but I think we all have great respect for each other and have an excellent time sailing together.

**M24\*USA: What advice would you give to someone looking to get into a Melges 24?**

**RC:** I couldn't recommend a Melges 24 enough. My first recommendation is time. The boat is one that, for most, takes some time to understand what makes it go fast. I know I'm still trying to figure it out. This boat has so many gears to identify and learn to use properly. Secondly, go ahead and reset your expectations. You may have placed high in national championships in other classes, but this boat and class will quickly humble you. This being



Photo courtesy of Rick Greyson / rickphotos.com

said, it is a boat and class that forces you to get better as a sailor. No other class will offer up America's Cup level sailors for you to compete against. Consider a partner with the boat. Expenses add up as it is critical your equipment is in top shape. Make sure it is someone who will compromise and one you can compromise with.

**M24\*USA: As the Southeast District Governor, what are your aspirations for the upcoming year as District Governor?**

**RC:** I really want to open up communication across the district, get more to travel to the district regattas, and I like to try to help develop some new fleets. We currently have extremely active fleets in Charleston, Atlanta, and Miami, but I'd like to see more activity in the Gulf region as well as the West and Northeastern coasts of Florida. I'd really like to build a sense of community amongst the SE district boats to help accomplish these goals. In addition, I am trying to bring a greater focus on the SE district championship. We are going to have a very nice award for the winner of the 2007 series (to be announced at a later date) and I am slightly adjusting the points system to try to encourage more participation in the championship. We've established an e-mail group that anyone can join by going to the SE district section of the US Melges 24 web site.

**M24\*USA: What profession do partake in when you are not sailing?**

**RC:** I work as a Management Consultant for a company based out of Atlanta called The North Highland Company. Although North Highland has many different consulting offerings, I am a CPA and typically work in finance and accounting departments of Fortune 100 companies normally dealing with serious process or execution problems they are experiencing.

# 2006 - 2007 U.S. Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
<b>2006 NORTH AMERICAN RANKING</b>			
11/16 - 11/18	U.S. National Championship/ACC .....	Jacksonville, FL .....	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
<b>2006 REGATTAS</b>			
10/07 - 10/08	Fall One Design Regatta .....	San Francisco, CA .....	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
10/13 - 10/15	Leukemia Cup .....	Corpus Christy, TX .....	Matt Mayo • mamayo@flash.net
10/14 - 10/15	Melges 24 Fall Flail I Chesapeake Cup .....	Annapolis, MD .....	Bill Carleton • m24tiburoni@gmail.com
10/14 - 10/15	WFORC (West Florida Ocean Racing Circuit) .....	Pensacola, FL .....	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
10/15 - 10/16	Puget Sound Sailing Championship .....	- .....	Matt MacGregor • matt@lakeview-morgage.com
10/28 - 10/29	Melbourne Fall Regatta .....	Melbourne, FL .....	Ryan Hamm • ryanhamm@sadlerandhamm.com
11/03 - 11/04	Melges 24 Grand Prix Championship .....	- .....	Matt MacGregor • matt@lakeview-morgage.com
11/04 - 11/05	San Francisco Challenge .....	San Francisco, CA .....	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
<b>2007 REGATTAS</b>			
1/15 - 1/19	2007 ACURA Key West Race Week .....	Key West, FL .....	Reid Collins • rcollins@northhighland.com
2/16 - 2/18	St. Petersburg NODD .....	St. Petersburg, FL .....	Reid Collins • rcollins@northhighland.com
3/24 - 3/25	Lake Lanier Regatta .....	Lake Lanier, GA .....	Reid Collins • rcollins@northhighland.com
4/12 - 4/15	Charleston Race Week .....	Charleston, SC .....	Reid Collins • rcollins@northhighland.com
4/21 - 4/22	Pacific Coast Championship .....	Belvedere, CA .....	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
5/03 - 5/12	2007 Fullpower Melges 24 World Championship .....	Santa Cruz, CA .....	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.com
5/19 - 5/20	Muskegon Regatta .....	Muskegon, MI .....	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.net
6/01 - 6/03	Detroit NODD .....	Detroit, MI .....	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.net
7/28 - 7/29	Charleston Harbor Challenge .....	Charleston, SC .....	Reid Collins • rcollins@northhighland.com
8/25 - 8/26	Traverse City Invitational .....	Traverse City, MI .....	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.net
10/06 - 10/07	Melges 24 Fall Championship .....	Lake Geneva, WI .....	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.net
10/13 - 10/14	WFORC (West Florida Ocean Racing Circuit) .....	Pensacola, FL .....	Reid Collins • rcollins@northhighland.com
10/27 - 10/28	Melbourne Race Week .....	Melbourne, FL .....	Reid Collins • rcollins@northhighland.com
11/16 - 11/18	King's Day Regatta .....	Jacksonville, FL .....	Paul Bennett • paul_bennett@k2sports.com

For a full listing of 2006-2007 U.S. Melges 24 events, visit [www.usmelges24.com](http://www.usmelges24.com). International events can be found at [www.melges24.com](http://www.melges24.com).

## 2006 Hall of Fame

ACURA Key West Race Week ..... Dave Ullman  
 St. Petersburg NODD\* ..... Eric Nerlinger  
 ACURA Miami Race Week ..... Riccardo Simoneschi (ITA)  
 Lakefest Regatta\* ..... Scott Holmgren  
 North American Championship\* ..... Brian Porter  
 Muskegon Regatta ..... Chuck Holzman

Detroit NODD\* ..... Marc Hollerbach  
 Ullman Sails Race Week\* ..... Dave Ullman  
 The Gold Cup\* ..... Ken Read  
 Fall Championship\* ..... Brian Porter

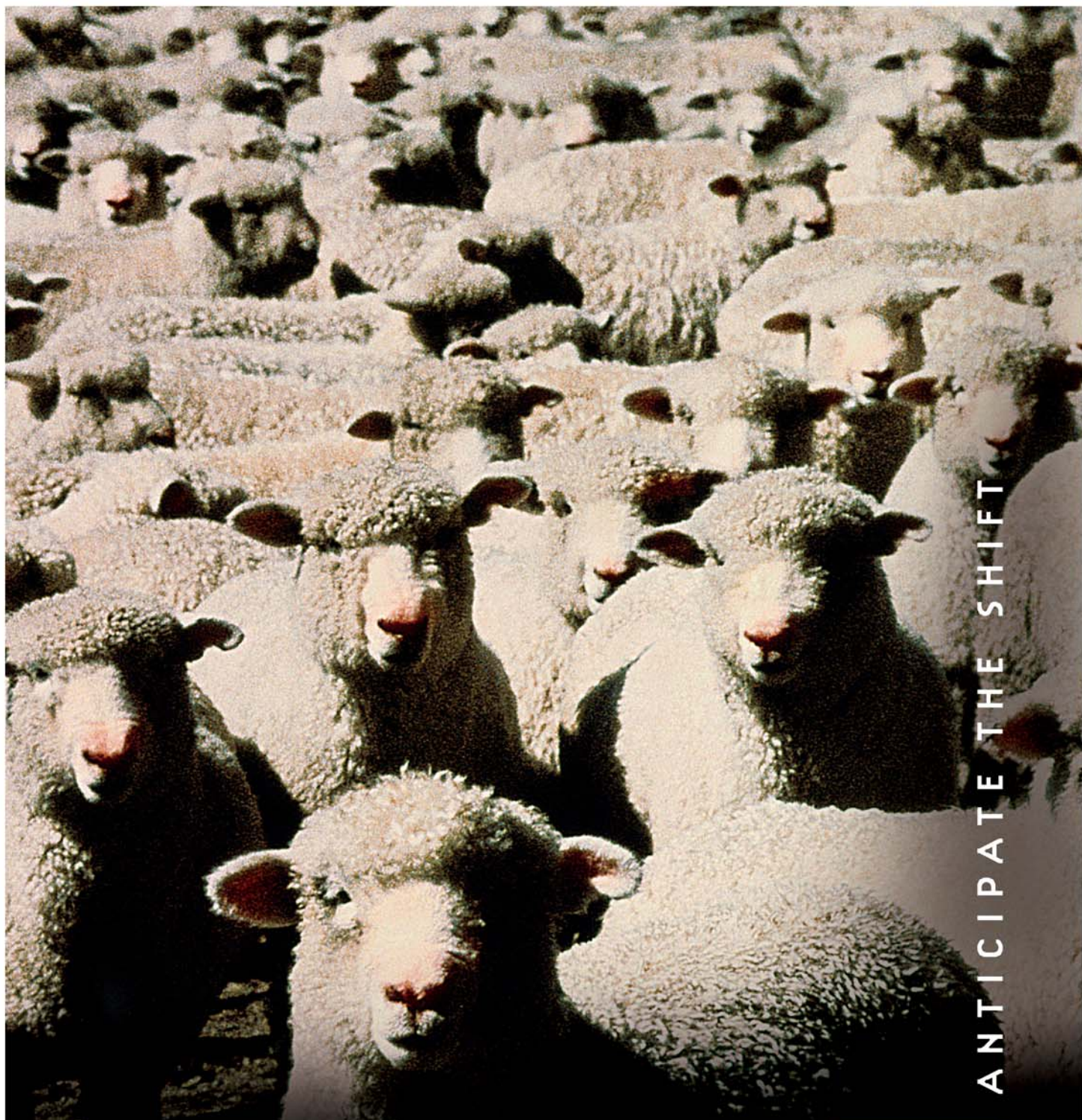
\*North American/World Ranking Points Events

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