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ORACLE BMW Racing Wins The Il Moro Trophy Regatta on San Francisco Bay

San Francisco, CA July 29, 2003 ... Sailing USA-76 on her home waters and in brisk winds, the ORACLE BMW Racing crew won the Grand Prix division from USA-49, the 2000-generation yacht once known as AmericaOne, but not without a fight. Despite the generation gap between the boats, USA-49, steered by Peter Stoneberg, gave the 2003 USA-76 a run for her money in many of the six races. USA-76 owner Larry Ellison was at the helm from start to finish in all of the races, with skipper Chris Dickson and helmsman Gavin Brady calling tactics.

“There was a lot of reaching around the harbor, which put our crew under a little pressure,” Brady said. “If we’d been in Auckland, USA-49 wouldn’t have been as competitive. But she’s a narrow boat with a lot of sail surface area and was very fast in some angles. It’s hard to find good competition in a non-America’s Cup year, so we enjoyed the challenge.” The six-boat fleet of America’s Cup Class yachts – including four vintage boats – enjoyed typically breezy San Francisco conditions in the three-day regatta. “A windy day in Auckland is a normal day in San Francisco. Competitors in the America’s Cup class had a lot of problems with breakage in Auckland, so it was good to beef up the boat a bit and put it through its paces in a decent breeze,” Brady said. “The ORACLE BMW boats were always good in a breeze and if you could pick a condition for them, you would pick a good wind.”

ORACLE BMW Racing will follow up the Il Moro Trophy victory with a five day match race on San Francisco Bay. The crew will split into two and race in Farr 40s. “This is the second phase of our time in San Francisco,” Brady said. “Most of us haven’t had as much match racing this year as we usually would, so it will be good to get out and do a bit more and gel more as a group.”

During the Il Moro Trophy, organized by The Challenge Series and hosted by the Sausalito Yacht Club, Larry Ellison participated in every race, and was able to spend three days training with the crew before the regatta.

In September's Moët Cup, a showdown between Louis Vuitton Cup finalists ORACLE BMW Racing and Swiss team Alinghi, Ellison will be required to drive the boat in five of the 12 races, up against Alinghi's owner-driver, Ernesto Bertarelli. Bertarelli has been preparing for the encounter at the Farr 40 world circuit. "It's great having Larry on board the boat," Brady said. "He is able to get a real appreciation of what's happening on the water, the chemistry and the people, and that can only be an added strength in this team."

Information about the race results and updates during the event can be found by visiting the Golden Gate Yacht Club web site at www.ggyc.com. For further information about ORACLE BMW Racing, please visit: www.oraclebmwracing.com

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