

## Fierce duel of the Kieler Woche giants

These championships have the full potential for becoming a true media highlight, and should provide script writers with all the material they need for a thrilling series.

A colourful carpet woven of interpersonal relationships keeps up the excitement in the run-up to the SAP 505 European Championship during the 2009 Kieler Woche.

The most eagerly awaited duel of the many that are expected in the fleet of some 100 crews will be the fight between the two Kieler Woche record holders Wolfgang Hunger from Strande and Jörgen Bojsen-Møller (Denmark). Within the past 30 years, each of them has been collecting as many as 16 wins.

Hunger has been dominating the action since 1983 with eight wins in the 470, and as many in the 505 since 1997, while Bojsen-Møller seems almost invincible with a score of 15 wins in the Flying Dutchman since 1983. On top of these, the Danish sail maker won the title in the 505 back in 1979, which also made him European Champion.

So the goal is clearly set for both: "We want to win the title, of course, but with everyone of reputation at the start, we will have fierce competition to deal with," says Wolfgang Hunger, who has been sailing with Julien Kleiner as crew since last year. He is not only after the European title, though, but has also set eyes on the Kieler Woche record: "The media are obviously pushing this thing. First I had to overtake Willi Kuhweide, then Gerd Eiermann, and now it's Jörgen Bojsen-Møller I have to beat. But when you're out there on the course, you naturally want to win anyway." Bojsen-Møller, who will be racing with his brother Jacob, has certain priorities, too: "We still have to clarify a few personal obligations. If we succeed, we will be fighting for the title. And in that case, winning the Kieler Woche record would be a nice extra." He is very relaxed about the special duel with Wolfgang Hunger: "On the water, he is my strongest contestant. Otherwise, we are the best of friends."

Both title aspirants have an impressive tally. Hunger is a three-time World Champion in the 505, Bojsen-Møller won Olympic gold off Seoul in 1988 in the Flying Dutchman, and the bronze medal in 1992. Two years ago, the Danish team proved their skills in



the 505 again, when the two brothers become European Champions, while Hunger had to make do with rank four.

But both teams should be on their guard for someone they both know too well: It is Holger Jess, a boat builder from Eckernförde who used to be Wolfgang Hunger's crew until 2007. Having won three world champion titles together, Jess eventually made room for Julien Kleiner. Since then, he has been successfully racing with a number of different crews himself. This spring, Jess won the Europe Cup off St. Raphael, France with Morten Bogacki, and whereas his

usual crew is currently Dietrich Scheder-Bieschin, he will be racing with Tom Gosch in the Europeans. "During our joint training with Wolfgang, we have both been acting on the same level. And a few other German crew will also try to stake their claim of the title," says Jess, who will keep a close eye on the Danish team, too: "Bojsen-Møller will be racing with identical material."

This does not come as a surprise, as Jess and Bojsen-Møller are partners in business with the boat builder from Eckernförde making top-class hulls, and Bojsen-Møller providing the sails.

This makes Ian Pinnell (U.K.) a very special competitor. From the British Isles, the current World Champion supplies boats and sails to many 505 sailors. So he will surely be under close scrutiny from the German-Danish perspective.

However, nobody should be too careless about the rest of the fleet, first and foremost when it comes to Jens Findel from Kiel, who will try to defend his title. There will also be Hasso Plattner to deal with, the co-founder of the software giant SAP who has more than one good reason to hope for excellent performance. For one, the Outer Kiel Fiord are his home waters, and last but not least, his company SAP is this year's title sponsor of the European Championships. So everything looks like there really will be ample material for writing thrilling scripts.

Jörgen Bojsen-Møller gewann auch 16 Mal die Kieler Woche, davon einmal im 505er, ansonsten im FD.





**Wolfgang Hunger und Julien Kleiner wollen den Kieler Woche Titel verteidigen und damit den EM-titel sichern.**