

TOMMY HILFIGER *Freedom America*
The Official Web Site of Brad Van Liew's Entry in the 2002-2003 "Around Alone" Yacht Race

DAY 17
Leg Four

miles traveled: 23264.5 nautical miles current leg standing as of 02:12 GMT: first place

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USA ENGLAND SOUTH AFRICA NEW ZEALAND BRAZIL USA

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The Spirit to Win - Follow Brad's Journey with Tommy Hilfiger

Tommy Hilfiger is the primary sponsor of Brad Van Liew's entry in the 2002-2003 "Around Alone" yacht race, the longest race on Earth for an individual in any sport.™

BRAD'S LATEST JOURNAL ENTRY

February 25, 2003
2:12 PM GMT

386 hours from start
first place (class II)

Speed: 12.0 knots
Heading: 119.0
Latitude: 55 14' 16" S
Longitude: 080 51' 28" W

Two days to the Horn!

Now I can finally look forward to The Horn. It looks like reliable conditions the rest of the way to the rock. God knows we deserve it after our little 60 knot pasting of yesterday. The barometer reached a low of 964 which is not fun to see especially when it drops like a homesick rock and then the low comes directly overhead with a brief sunny sky and light winds. During that period knowing the big blow is on the way is usually worse than the storm itself - then a few hours later 60 knots and building seas. Fortunately this depression was not as bad as what hit me in the same place four years ago. This time the storm was moving quickly and was tightly wound so it kept moving and the seas only got to 25 feet or so - uncomfortable and rough with lots of thumping and banging on poor little Tommy Hilfiger Freedom America but not deadly. The name of the game down here is avoid the deadly stuff and make it around the rock with your powder keg dry so you can come out firing once around the other side. So far this strategy has worked and the boat and I seem to be in good shape. The boat is chomping at the bit and I can't believe after the abuse of the last two weeks the Spectra sails still look amazing. This means once around the Horn I can spread the big wings of this machine and fly to Brazil!



So far so good!

Brad

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Brad's Journal

LEG 4

JOURNAL ARCHIVE

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February 19, 2003
1:38 PM GMT

241 hours from start
first place (class II)

Speed: 13.0 knots
Heading: 89.0
Latitude: 49 37' 26" S
Longitude: 124 23' 41" W



I had a really tiresome night. I was navigating a tricky line of unpredictable squalls, with jumpy winds that ranged from 30-50 knots. I'll tell you the story of the worst one.

In the middle of the night I was screaming along at 20 knots or so, sailing on the edge. It was dark and the squalls were rolling over Tommy Hilfiger Freedom America and me with great determination. I had 2 reefs in the mainsail and the Solent up front. A major squall hit me, bringing the wind forward from the south. The boat, being set-up for a different wind angle, laid flat on her side. I was down below and ran on deck in a speedy attempt to fix things (without my foul weather gear on). As I reached deck and began to ease the sheets and reduce sail area the hail and rain from the squall began its decent. I was worried that I would not be able to roll in the Solent. The winds topped out at 50 knots and the sails and lines were slapping around like wild banshees. The sheets were flogging so badly that they tied themselves in a huge knot. It was absolutely freezing and my hands became numb. As I tried to control the situation a wave hit the side of the boat in perfect form, coming up over the deck and drenching me from head to toe. This is cold water at 50 South! My boots were filled with a chilly pool of salt water. This is not my idea of a bath.

It took me about 2 hours to wrangle the mess of lines out of their complex knot. I rolled the Solent so quickly that I hope it is not damaged from the intense flogging. I put a 3rd reef in the mainsail and set the smaller staysail. This whole experience was exhausting, not to mention cold and wet. Just another day in the Southern Ocean...

Brad

Leg One >>
09/15/02-09/30/02

Leg Two >>
10/14/02-11/27/02

Leg Three >>
12/14/02-01/15/03

Leg Four >>
02/09/03-

Leg Five
starts 04/13/03

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✉ **Ask Brad**
E-mail Brad aboard
Tommy Hilfiger Freedom
America

LEG 4 CLOCK

16 days 11 hours
22 min 54 secs

miles traveled: 23264.5 nautical miles

current leg standing as of 02:12 GMT: first place

CLOSE

USA

ENGLAND

SOUTH AFRICA

NEW ZEALAND

BRAZIL

USA

Finish: Newport, US
Start: New York, US

Salvador, BR

Cape Town, ZA

Tauranga, NZ

[Leg 4 Report](#)
Leg 4**DAY 17**

2:12 PM GMT

February 25, 2003

55 14' 16" S 080 51' 28" W

Next Port: Salvador, BR**Mileage:** 4315 nm**Heading:** 119.0 deg.**Speed:** 12 knots**Journal Entry:***Two days to the Horn!**Now I can finally look*
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