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LaSalle's Beaudoin wins gold at Australian sailing event

Windsor native Amante makes OHL debut

THE WINDSOR STAR DECEMBER 30, 2011



LaSalle native Nick Beaudoin captured gold at one of world's top sailing events.

Beaudoin was a member of the Australian team Investec Loyal which won the Rolex Sydney to Hobart race on Boxing Day.

Investec Loyal trailed the race by 20 miles against fivetime defending champion Wild Oats, who were heavily favoured to win for the sixth straight time.

Beaudoin, a head sail trimmer for the 15-man crew, helped the team make up ground to hold off Wild Oats in the 628mile race, crossing the finish line three minutes ahead of the defending champs.

Investec Loyal's victory was under review after the team was accused of using a television helicopter pilot to spy on Wild Oats. The protest was dismissed and Investec Loyal's victory was upheld.

Beaudoin, who grew up in LaSalle and sailed out of the Mariners Yacht Club, has competed in the race four times previously as a crew member for Ichi Ban, a smaller boat.

"He's always active sailing over there," Nick's father Jim Beaudoin said.

"He's paid to sail and he's very good at it."

The 31-year-old Beaudoin makes a living in Australia for North Sails, one of the biggest sailmaking companies in the world.

Beaudoin is planning to return to LaSalle in the summer for his wedding in June.



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