

SANTA BARBARA  
NEWS-PRESS

SECTION **B2**

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Gerry Fall, Sports Editor

# Sports

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014



## THE BULLPEN

USC and Alabama have formalized a deal that had been in the works for weeks. The college football power programs will kick off the 2016 season with a Sept. 3 neutral-site game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. "We are excited to participate in a game that is such an attractive matchup for the nation's fans," USC coach Steve Sarkisian said in a statement on the school's website. "The 2016 Cowboys Classic not only brings together two of college football's most tradition-laden and successful programs, but teams that in 1970 played a significant role in shaping the history of the game." Sarkisian was referring to the Trojans' 42-21 win in Birmingham, Ala., led by three African-Americans, fullback Sam Cunningham, quarterback Jimmy Jones and tailback Clarence Davis.

## Consistency helps Flash Gordon

By SEAN LEWIS  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Voodoo Chile and Flash Gordon could hardly be closer, with both of the boats battling for the top spot in the opening race of the Farr40 West Coast Championship. The two were the first to cross the weather mark, and the first two to cross through the gate at the other end of the course as well. Eventually, Voodoo Chile was able to claim the win in the first race, but it was Flash Gordon and skipper/owner Helmut Jahn who celebrated last.

Jahn and Flash Gordon finished second, third and fifth in three races on Wednesday to secure the top spot in the Farr40 WCC out of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

It is a good position to be in heading toward the second of four days today for a regatta scheduled for a maximum of 11 races. However, Jahn isn't ready to party just yet.

"(First place) doesn't mean anything," he said. "There's four days and a lot can happen. We got ourselves out of a big hole in the third race because we didn't go the favored way and came in port to the upward mark and were fortunately able to squeeze in to some boats that were tight to the mark. Then we passed some boats downwind and ended up fifth."

"The fleet is very competitive. Half of those boats can win, especially with the Australians here. All the boats that travel have a little more experience, especially in tricky conditions. They are conditions. You will see on the rest of the regatta that there will be a lot of movement, up and down, on the leaderboard."

The international entrants list includes three boats from Australia, including Voodoo Chile, one from Italy and another from Mexico. The other 10 yachts are American.

Jahn understands that in order to

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## FARR40 WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP



The crew on board Groovederci (09), skippered by local sailor John Demourkas, struggled early on Wednesday after an early penalty and light winds, but has made improvements and looks to move up as the Farr40 West Coast Championship continues today out of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

THOMAS KELSEY /  
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maintain his spot on top of the standings, consistency will be the most important thing.

"It goes very quick," Jahn said. "You can never have a real bad race

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FARR 40 WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP