USVI sailor wins national sailing award

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St. Croix's Mathieu Dale holds the Peter J. Barrett Sportsmanship Award, which he was presented Saturday after finishing fourth in the International Laser Class Association's U.S. Singlehanded National Championships in Norfolk, Va.

St. Croix teen Mathieu Dale finished among the top five in his class and was named the winner of a national award during the International Laser Class Association's U.S. Singlehanded National Championships, which concluded Sunday in Norfolk, Va.

Dale finished fourth in the Laser Standard class with 59 points, just three back of Humberto Porrata of North Palm Beach, Fla. (56 points). Rob Hallawell of Jensen Beach, Fla., won the class title with 36 points, just ahead of Bermuda's Benn Smith (40 points).

After a rough time — finishes of 23rd and 50th — in the first two races, Dale recovered with five top-fives (including a second-place finish to Hallawell in the final race) and two more top-10s.

During the awards ceremony, Dale was presented with the Peter J. Barrett Sportsmanship Award, named for the two-time Olympian and multiple national championship-winning sailor.