

## Rodolfi's TWT to match it with leader of Evolution

**D D McNicoll**  
Sailing

SYDNEY's Richard Perini on Evolution held on to a one-point lead in the Farr 40 world championship yesterday, but Italian skipper Marco Rodolfi aboard TWT gave notice Perini would not be handed the regatta on a plate.

With Evolution and TWT more than 10 points clear of the next boat, Neville Crichton's Team Shockwave, today's final two races could become a match race between the leaders.

But with the first 11 boats within 24 points of each other, and the class rules calling for all race results to count, picking a winner is like predicting the weekly Lotto numbers.

Yesterday's first race off Sydney turned into a cakewalk for Rodolfi on TWT. Seconds after crossing the start line he tacked to port — heading towards Bondi Beach, and found wind lost to the rest of the fleet.

He rounded every mark in first place and finished more than 2½ minutes in front of David Gotze (Brighton Star) — an almost unheard-of margin in a one-design fleet like this.



**Contender:** TWT's crew gets busy in Sydney yesterday

In the second race, Rodolfi continued his domination. He lost the lead briefly to compatriot Giovanni Maspero (Joe Fly) at the second mark but regained it by the third and held off his rivals to win by just 13 seconds.

The third race of the day, sailed in fluky conditions with a wild thunderstorm approaching from the south, was an all-Australian benefit.

World champion in 2000, Melbourne's John Calvert-Jones (Southern Star) finished first to improve his overall position to ninth.

Calvert-Jones was followed

over the line by Marcus Blackmore in Emotional Hooligan, and Perini.

Sydney's Matt Allen (Ichi Ban), who won the first two races of the regatta and who was second overall on Wednesday, had a disappointing time yesterday. He was 20th in the first race and followed with fifth and a 14th to be eighth overall, 21 points behind Perini.

Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik struggled into 24th place in the first race, last in the second and 26th in the third for an overall position of second-last in the 28-boat fleet.