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Photo by TODD VAN SICKLE

heads eastward Tuesday in the Round Tortola Race.

# Jack wins Round in festival opener

ny Cay Challenge course re- for monohulls. Triple Jack had a corrected time of 8 hours, 48 minutes, 38 seconds and can claim to the Nanny Cay Cup. It was a very good time but the other side of the island was very, very fast," Wooldridge said. "There is an east wind which means we

had to beat up to Beef Island which was very slow, but as soon as we got around Scrub Island, we are flying downwind."

Wooldridge has the record of 2 hours, 33 minutes in the circumnavigation of Tortola but said he had a

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# V.I. chess players headed to national tourney in Atlanta

By **MATT SCHOCH**  
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Jermaine Jones of E. Benjamin Oliver Elementary School can usually beat his dad at chess.

Now, Howard Jones said his fourth-grader don is ready to take on the rest of the country.

"We play occasionally, but he beats me," Jones said about the 9-year old. "He's better than me now."

Jermaine is among 17 Virgin Islands students who will test their skills this weekend in Atlanta at the United States Chess Federation national championships.

Jermaine has been playing chess for three years, and was introduced to the game by his older brother. But it's been Sinclair Wilkinson who has gotten hundreds of Virgin Islanders into the game over the years.

The former Ivanna Eudora Kean High School principal is the director of the club and is sending his first group to nationals. He said close to 2,000 students will compete.

The St. Thomas-St. John Youth Scholastic Chess Club group leaves today for the event, which is Friday through Sunday. Wilkinson's group has competed in amateur tournament in the U.S. mainland before, taking first place twice.

"I'm very optimistic," Wilkinson said. "We've been training every week

over the past seven weeks."

Coaches selected the players based upon evaluations at local tournaments.

Benjamin Berry, a sophomore of Charlotte Amalie High School, is one of the students who has competed with Wilkinson on the mainland at an event a couple years ago in Tampa, Fla.

"It was a good experience, but I lost every game," Berry, now 15, said. "It was an open tournament, so I was playing people who have been playing their whole lives. After that I started practicing every day."

Berry hopes to win at least four matches in the seven-round event.

After the competition, the group will visit either a museum, aquarium or other educational tour on Monday.

In addition to Jones and Berry, the students heading to Atlanta are Adriel Fung and David Persad of Ad-delita Cancryn Junior High School; Alessandro Gever of Antilles School; Diamond Richards of CAHS; Taragee Gumbs of E. Benjamin Oliver; Kwami Alexander, Jeanne Viray and Matthew Wilkinson of Ivanna Eudora Kean High School; Stacey David and Owin Hayne of Lockhart Elementary; and Kinzie Brown, Aiden Griffin, Christopher Griffin, Anabelle Huber and Amir Ottey of V.I. Montessori School and Peter Gruber International Academy.

— *Daily News Sports Editor Matt Schoch can be reached at 340-714-9117 or [mschoch@dailynews.vi](mailto:mschoch@dailynews.vi).*

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