

Headline	Thai placed third at Transpac ocean race
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**SAILING**

# Thai placed third at Transpac ocean race

Thai sailor Patinyakorn Buranrom has written a new chapter in the kingdom's sporting history when he skippered Sansiri to finish third in a division at the Transpac in the US this week.

Sansiri, co-skipped by Australian Michael Spies, was Thailand's first-ever entry in the 4,100km ocean race.

Nicknamed Ging, Patinyakorn and Spies led Sansiri to cross the finish line on Sunday in 12 days, 14 hours and 30 minutes and was third in Division Seven with an average speed of 7.6 knots.

They left Point Fermin in Los Angeles on July 8 and finished in Diamond Head in Honolulu in one of the world's greatest ocean races.

"I am proud to be the first Thai to have competed in this race. A third place among some of the best sailors in the world in something Thailand can be proud of," Patinyakorn said.

"The toughest day was the first. All



Patinyakorn Buranrom, second right, and Michael Spies, centre, on Sansiri.

five of us were on deck sailing at high speed and we had no time to sleep or eat. We were focused solely on the race. We did very well in the early stages.

"It was the toughest race for myself. I have had a fantastic experience — indeed it's the experience of a lifetime.

Patinyakorn praised Spies and crew members for their professionalism.

"It's an honour to race with them all — they are professionals," he said.

Spies said: "I'm sure he will take this experience back to Thailand and be an inspiration for many young Thai sailors."