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Don't diss our chances of winning race's big prize

Amanda Lulham

HE HAS always believed he had the team to win, but now skipper David Pescud is adamant he has the boat to claim overall victory in the Sydney to Hobart.

An act of generosity by former Sydney to Hobart campaigner and wotif.com founder Graeme Wood has given Pescud and his Sailors With disABILITIES team a genuine chance at the crown.

Last night, Pescud and his crew were right in the mix for handicap honours

as they kept their fingers crossed that conditions would favour a boat in the 50-foot range.

"It's every sailor's dream to win the Sydney to Hobart overall," said Pescud, a veteran campaigner who has twice won the PHS division in the race and is launching a quest for the main prize of overall honours.

"I think we have a good chance with this boat. When we go out we always mean business."

Pescud's crew on the 52-footer Wot

Eva includes Tom Murphy (hearing impaired), Lloyd Williams (hearing impaired), Kirk Watson (vision impaired) and Brett Pearce (spina bifida).

"They will have to use their eyes more to stay in communication with their team leader," Pescud said of his hearing-impaired crewmen.

Pescud said the motivation for doing well is twofold — to secure a sponsor and to be seen as sailors first: "people who are disabled, not disabled people."