

GARDA EUROLYMP: First day of regattas

Today was the first day of racing for this crucial Eurolymp 2011, organised by Fraglia Vela Riva, Italy together with Torbole Surf Club and Fraglia Vela Malcesine.

For the Italian crews this is one of the last three events which will select the national Olympic Team before the ISAF world championships in Perth (in accordance with CIO rules). Two hundred and fifty crews were validated giving a total of 326 people from 40 different nations.

Wind conditions were very different depending on the race course and classes involved. The 470 and 49er had the most races completed.

Men's and Women's 470

The Italians dominated in the men's 470 with five crews finishing in the top five. In the lead are Zandonà-Zucchetti with three firsts, followed by Sivitz-Farneti (3-2-2). In third place carrying the colours of Fraglia Vela Riva are Fabio Zeni and Nicola Pitanti, finishing with a fourth and two thirds. Trailing behind are Desiderato-Zaoli, and Dubbini-Dubbini. In the women's competition, Conti-Micol had 3 easy wins, second Slovenians Mrak-Cerne (3-7-3) and in third place, three points behind, are Italian Tobia-Moretto.

49er

As expected the Sibello brothers are comfortably in the lead in the 49er category (1-1-1-2); with 12 points are Spaniards Paz-Paz and an excellent third place for Tita-Gritti (4-4-8-4).

Laser Standard

The Italian achievement in this category has been phenomenal: Bougiourf of Greece is in the lead and in second to fourth place are all Italians. It was a good day for Marco Gallo with an 11th and a win in the second leg: he's lying in second place three points ahead of Michele Regolo (8-7); in third place and three points behind is Tommaso Pelosini of Livorno (6-12). Romero is 19th with a 21 and 17 partial; Giacomo Bottoli is to keep an eye on he's 26th, with a second and a 51st, which will certainly be discarded.

Laser Radial

Lithuanian Gintare Scheidt is in first place with two clear wins today; in second place is Francesca Clapcich of Italy with a second and sixth in the partials. In third place is Fatima Reyes of Spain, equal on points with the Italian. The Chinese, Spanish, Greek and Turks follow. Laura Cosentino is eleventh(13-10 partials).

RS: X F

High tension between the women of windsurfing for the selection that will be played down to the last race between Sensini and Linares. In the only race today Alessandra Sensini had the advantage, but Laura Linares is right behind and has no intention of giving up. Yue Huang is in third place. She is one of the numerous participants from China

RS:X M

New Zealander Tom Ashley seems to be in a class of his own: with 2 wins he is leading Kokkalanis of Greece (3-2). in third place is Mashiah of Israel. Federico Esposito of Italy is 5th (7-5), 3 points ahead of Fabian Heidegger (5-10), who is seeing his hopes of qualifying gradually disappear.

Star and Finn Malcesine had the least wind today, which meant that the Star wasn't able to finish any legs; the Finn completed 2 regular races. In the lead is Wright (2-1), of Great Britain, 2nd is the Estonian Karpak and in 3rd place is Bogar of Slovenia. Michele Paoletti of Italy is in 3rd place with a 7th and a 4th, while his closest rival for the Olympic selection is Filippo Baldessari in 11th place (6-16) 11 points behind. Giorgio Poggi is in 6th place with an 11th and a good third place in the last of today's races.

Tomorrow the Laser, RS: X, Finn and Star will start early tomorrow morning with, hopefully, the north wind and then in the afternoon re-try with the south winds together with the 470 and 49er.

PHOTO: GIOVANNI DE SANDRE©/FRAGLIA VELA RIVA

Eurolymp web site and results: <http://www.fragliavelariva.it/regatta/349/view>

photo gallery (low res): <https://picasaweb.google.com/fragliavelariva2011/OlympicGardaEurolymp2011#>

photo gallery hi res.: <https://picasaweb.google.com/fragliavelariva2011/EUROLYMPALTARIS#>



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