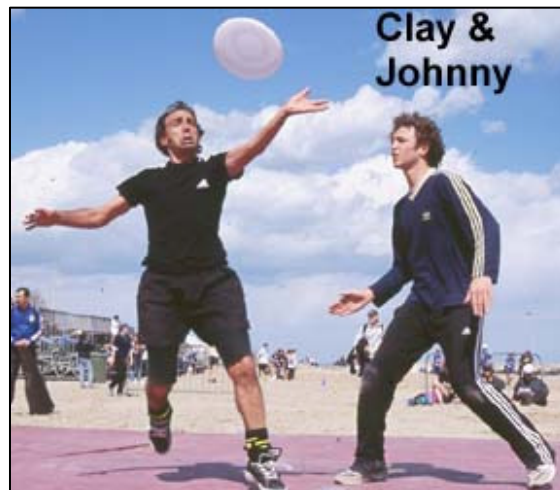


## Norway/USA team win The First Acrobatic Paganello in Italy - big plans for next year's event!



Rimini, Italy on the Adriatic Coast  
Easter Week-End, 1998

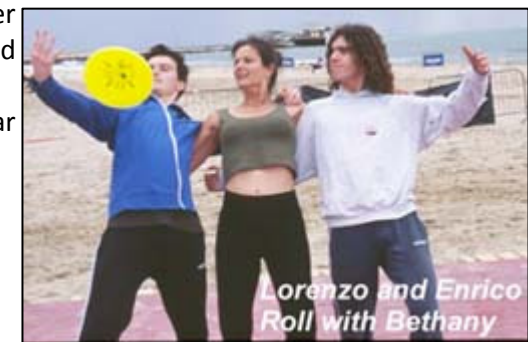


Do you like to jam in front of a **large, enthusiastic crowd**? Is it time for a **low-cost European vacation**? **Then mark Easter '99 on your calendar**, as next year's tournament will have nearly **1,000 spectators for the freestyle finals**. And air fare from the U.S. to Italy is typically **\$400RT** during the off-season, with inexpensive lodging readily available, walking distance from the tournament and beach.


But enough about next year. This year's freestyle tournament was the first ever freestyle competition as part of the Paganello, a huge beach ultimate tournament held every year. Despite rainy and windy weather, all freestylers had an incredible time as the hospitality of the Italian hosts and the enthusiasm of the spectators (yes, European ultimate players love to watch freestyle) more than made up for the challenging conditions. Next year, we're planning to have the freestyle finals in a sports hall at the huge dinner party if the conditions are bad. If the conditions are good, the top 4 teams will do a demo at the party, and we'll have the finals on the beach, close to the water with grandstands on the soft sand. This year's party was for about 800 people with penne pasta, ravioli, chicken, green salad, and as much wine and water as you can drink with a live band playing past 2am to a packed house.

This year, only one round of freestyle was held due to incredibly strong winds and occasional rain. On Easter Sunday, the weather cleared long enough to get in one round of freestyle. A few hundred spectators gathered around the freestyle venue, which consisted of a wood dance floor set up on soft sand with grandstands close by. Unfortunately, many ultimate games were in progress so the crowd wasn't as big as it could have been. (Next year we won't have a game during the finals and we'll play on the hard sand near the water or indoors.)

Of course, perfect beach jamming conditions rolled in right before sunset just one hour after the tournament was over. The next day, Tuesday, was one of the best beach winds I've played with in a long time.



The actual results were:

Place	Player/Country	Points	Spectator Ordinals	Comments
1	<b>Sune Wentzel (Norway)</b> <b>Thomas Finborud (Norway)</b> <b>Larry Imperiale ( USA)</b>	88.7	22	Thomas demonstrated brushing skill with both spins and played great in his first win. He's definitely another new jammer on the rise. Sune excited the crowd as usual and hit a TommyL-kick to a Thomas catch, and Larry rocked the platform with a forbici (gitis). 
2T	<b>Claudio "Clay" Collerà (Italy)</b> <b>Johnny "Tangas" Melfi (Italy)</b> <b>Morgan Fiorani (Italy)</b>	75.5	20	Clay has been playing for a long time, winning the 1986 Euro championships with a different choreographed routine in each round. His jamming charisma is like no one I've ever seen, and combining this with his awesome brushing and disc skills, makes Clay a crowd favorite. Morgan is truly an extreme jammer, throwing his body around with abandon, but hitting big moves in the process. Johnny is a smooth, fast player starting off the routine with a co-op to his triple-fake finish, and hitting a barrel roll catch from a back roll set ( <i>Fie la Bill</i> - Do the Bill [Wright]). Morgan and Johnny's only source of new moves is the 1991 WFDF video. Watch out for these guys at WFDF Sweden 1999.
2T	<b>Reto Zimmerman (Switz)</b> <b>Rodney Sanchez (USA)</b>	74.4	21	3-somes have an advantage over pairs in 5+ minute routines, especially in tough conditions. But these guys dealt with the winds and played solid. Rodney excited the crowd with his great wind play, despite the fact that he hadn't jammed for months. Reto got huge crowd response for his triple spinning catches and other acrobatic moves that helped the event live up to its name.
4	<b>Sebastian Rodela (Italy)</b> <b>Enrico Barsanti (Italy)</b> <b>Lorenzo Manzani (Italy)</b>	51.3	10	Hot counter jammers from Milano! These guys played non-stop, all day. They have the major jamming bug and are learning new moves every hour. I'm sure they will be more of a factor in next year's tournament.
5	<b>Bethany Sanchez (USA)</b> <b>Alan Caplin (USA)</b>	57.0	6	These guys were up first and played really clean in tough conditions to great crowd response. It was great to have a woman getting hot out there, hopefully a few of the local women jammers will compete next year. Alan hit a big <i>Ceca (Scarecrow)</i> among other moves.
6	<b>Fernando Direito (France)</b> <b>Jorge Araujo (France)</b>	46.3	8	These guys crank the counter, and have got some hot moves and lots of fire. They had worked out some cool co-ops and hit a nice quick catch series. They had tough conditions in this, their first tournament, but with more practice and some tournament experience these guys will become a factor. Fernando is planning on attending FPA Worlds in Seattle, so get ready to show him some new moves...



Did not play due to ultimate game conflict: **Geoff Schwartz (Poland) - Juro Turan (Slovakia)**. Juro is fired up! Even though he couldn't compete, he jammed non-stop in between ultimate games.

Also, Rohre (10, I think) and Vehro (13 or so) Titcomb, of Seattle and Como, Italy, jammed all day Friday and Saturday, but unfortunately they were unable to compete due to other plans on Easter Sunday. Regardless, it was great that the spectators saw some younger jammers shredding. Another example of Mary J's worldwide influence.



Since there was only one round and not many qualified judges, we used a hybrid system. The 4 semi-qualified judges each judged Difficulty, Artistic Impression, and Execution, and came up with a point score that was worth 50%. We also gave ranking sheets to 4 spectators, each from a different county and with mixed gender, and this was the other 50% of the score. It is undetermined if we'll use the FPA system next year or keep this system. If this year's system is used next year and there is a tie, the team that ranks higher with the spectator judges will win.

Ciao! Hope to see you next year as we expect a huge turnout of freestylers.

**- Larry Imperiale**  
(repaged by Claudio Cigna)

