

Acrobatic Paganello 2005

Review by Tom Leitner (repaged by Claudio Cigna)

Well, another epic Paganello is in the books, and in many ways this was the best one yet.

Although only 1 freestyler (Larry) travelled from the US we still had 45 + competitors and at least 25 more sideline jammers. that's about 70 Euro jammers at Paga '05!

Once again there were many new players including Silvia 'that girl' Caruso - who left everyone in awe with how fast she has developed her shred-ability. Also, an awesome group of jammers from Germany who are way fired up, and new players from Bologna, Sardina, Milan and Lecce.

Although the weather was not perfect we were able to jam outside on Friday and Saturday and local Rimini jammers Andrea and Luca pulled off the upset of the tournament winning the B-Final and making it to the disco (tent) jam.

Along with Silvia and Eleanora who played in the Open division there were several other women jammers on the beach including Gaia and Sara from Torino and the Titcomb sisters and a couple other newcomers from Germany, Rome and Bologna.

This year a huge, circus style tent was erected on the beach and it was really great because it allowed the Saturday 'disco jam' to happen on the beach - and it turned out to be the perfect place for the finals too when the rain started coming down Sunday afternoon. The rain helped the freestyle final attract the biggest audience we've seen for a Paga finals as spectators and ultimate players seeking shelter were able to witness a high spirited final.

The media coverage was spectacular with 3 national TV channels and local and national newspapers covering the event.

The local Rimini ultimate team, Cota Rica pulled off an upset by making it to the finals. So, on Monday a huge crowd came out to cheer for their home team.

Miraculously they upset the heavily favored Atlanta team in front of a crowd of 2,000+ and won the World Beach Ultimate Championship. The team, the city and frisbee players across Italy celebrated Italy's first world Ultimate Championship in 15 years!

Thanks to everyone who helped make Paganello happen - especially Lui, Clay and Danielle!

Congratulations to Edoardo for his first Paganello win and the biggest win ever by a Roman freestyler! and to Mauro, Luca and Claudio for making the finals, to Clay for overcoming a knee injury to win co-op, and to all the freestyle family for keeping the spirit alive and well all weekend - Iwan, Gregory, Tommy G, Team Germany, Trieste, Milano, Rimini, Roma, Lecce, Pescara, Umbria....

Unfortunately, Lorenzo Apriani suffered a bad knee injury last week as was unable to attend, we all send our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

- Tom

PS On Monday we were treated to perfect wind, sunny weather and hein jamming....Z U round!