



The first event of the 2010 Audi Melges 20 Sailing Series in Lerici saw Benedetto Giallongo and 'Value Team' - the guy we nicknamed 'the killer' for his team's dominance in the inaugural year of the series - well back in the fleet. With the class continuing its blazing growth (30 boats on the line in the second year of racing), we figured that the hot newbie teams (which include rock owners like former Mumm 30 champ Claudio Recchi and a pile of other top M32 owners) had finally gotten to Giallongo's level. We were wrong. Report from tactician Chicco Fonda with photo thanks to Melges Europe.

### *Return of the killer*

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I returned from Scarlino last night and, after some thoughts about our success, all I have to say is a big "thanks" to our owner Benedetto Giallongo. The best call of the week came from him: He wanted to drive one day earlier than usual to the venue, to have two days of training before the biggest Audi Melges 20 event ever (until the next one!!). Not just because "the more you practise, the luckier you get," - but because our mast broke on Thursday, leaving us a full night and day to borrow (thanks, Luisa!) step, and tune it properly for our Quantum main.

So this is how the event started for us... a lot of boat work! I was getting crazy under the sun to find the symmetry of all the stays, so I can say that the racing was the easiest part after all! We had 3 races on the first day with 10-14 knots and chop, scoring 2-1-1, the boat was very well tuned, and Francesco let the boat go sooooo fast. The first race was pretty intense since we had to restart after being called OCS (NO REDRESS THIS TIME!) and we did a great recover on the left on the first beat to turn on 4th position the top mark, and to finish 2nd in that one.

On Sunday the wind was lighter (6-8 knots), our speed edge was not like in medium winds, but we sailed well scoring 1-4, winning the leg. I guess right now we are also leading the Audi Series, even after our weak performance in Lerici last month. WOW!