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1984 European Championship

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The mooring place at Yacht Club Italia, with Santa Lucia Marina and Dell'Ovo Castel in background.

Francesco De Angelis of Naples won the 1984 European Championship held 3-9 June and hosted by the Naples Yacht Club. The championship's sponsor, LANCIA, offered foreign competitors free hotel accommodations and one boat in charter. A fleet of 24 boats representing eight countries was welcomed at an opening cocktail party and flag ceremony. Italy entered 15 boats selected two weeks before at their national championship sailed in the same racing area. Nine

crews came from abroad: two Dutch, two German, one Swiss, one Greek, one British, one Swedish, and one French. Among these only the German, Hipel, and the Dutch, Hamer, came with their own boats, travelling from Hamburg and Haarlem for 35 hours consecutive!

The event was very well organized by the Naples Yacht Club committees, who have been involved in many international events and past Olympic games. The program included six

Olympic courses without a distance race which would have favored the local fleet who know better the Naples Gulf conditions. Sunshine and regular northwest winds of 10 to 20 knots, with one day blowing up to 35 knots, characterized the event. The Vesuvio volcano which dominates the Naples Gulf, and the island of Capri at the south made a nice background for the racing. Neapolitans De Angelis, A. Signorini and A. Dalla Vecchia were masters of the event, giving to Italian

yachting an important honor never obtained up to now in the J/24 Class.

In the first race A. Signorini got off to a good start and led up to the end of the race, with De Angelis in second. The best finishing foreign boat was the Dutch Carabain, finishing seventh. After four hours postponement, the wind came in for the second race. Dalla Vecchia was leading from the first mark and finished first. De Angelis, late at the beginning of the race, moved up to second position on the last leg. The British Estaugh was third. In the third race the French Pillet, with very clever tacking, was first with a great lead at the weather mark. Just on the last leg before the finish, A. Signorini moved into first place with fellow Italians P. Signorini and Marino in second and third. The Swedish Janseus was fourth, and poor Pillet came in fifth.

The winds increased for the fourth race. On the second reaching leg in over 30 knots and very close hauled, De Angelis, A. Signorini, Dalla Vecchia and Gallo were very fast and got a great lead on the fleet. They were able to hold their positions at the end of the race. A. Signorini and De Angelis were tied going into the fifth race, and stayed very close one to the other. Dalla Vecchia decided on a different course on the first leg, and with better tacking he was leading the race from the first mark to the end. Second was Samele and then the French Pillet, later disqualified for an advanced start. The first foreigner was the British Estaugh, finishing 10th.

At this time A. Signorini was six points ahead of De Angelis, a good lead considering that only one more race was left. De Angelis was not discouraged, and sailed a wonderful race. He gained a second position only at the end of the second beating leg, following A. Signorini who was leading the race from the beginning. De Angelis was first rounding the running mark and in this best controlling position was able to sail against A. Signorini in order that Dalla Vecchia and Samele, who were following very close, got the second and third places. A. Signorini was fourth, giving De Angelis in *Le Coq Hardi* the series. Second was A. Signorini in *Pall'e Cannone* and third was Dalla Vecchia in *Santapazienza*.

The 1984 European Championship was over and the boats of the Naples fleet were the leaders. The British Estaugh was the best of the foreign sailors, finishing sixth. A very

generous prize-giving offered by the event's sponsor, LANCIA S.p. A. and a speech by Mr. Carolo Rolandi, chairman of the Italian Sailing Federation, closed the series.

1984 European Championship

POS	YACHT	SKIPPER	COUNTRY
1	<i>Le Coq Hardi</i>	F. De Angelis	Italy
2	<i>Pall'e Cannone</i>	A. Signorini	Italy
3	<i>Santapazienza</i>	A. Dalla Vecchia	Italy
4	<i>Canarino Feroce</i>	A. Samele	Italy
5	<i>O'Scuorano</i>	P. Signorini	Italy
6	<i>Siern</i>	R. Estaugh	England
7	<i>L'Allegro bevitore</i>	E. Petracchi	Italy
8	<i>Rabbit</i>	C. Recchi	Italy
9	<i>Desir</i>	W. Marino	Italy
10	<i>Firs</i>	M. Ungaro	Italy
11	<i>Guapparia</i>	M. Barendson	Italy
12	<i>San Brandano</i>	N. Janseus	Sweden
13	<i>Il flauto Magico</i>	G. Pillet	France
14	<i>Reggine</i>	M. Clemente	Italy
15	<i>Redneck</i>	F. Boot	Holland
16	<i>J.R.</i>	C. Campobasso	Italy
17	<i>Blue Jay Way</i>	A. Gallo	Italy
18	<i>Avoltore</i>	R. Hipel	Germany
19	<i>Controcorrente</i>	E. Franchette	Italy
20	<i>Vitesse</i>	M. Konig	Germany
21	<i>Mite Leone</i>	A. Carabain	Holland
22	<i>Scusate il ritardo</i>	H. Rusterholz	Switzerland
23	<i>Do di Petto</i>	E. Recchi	Italy
24	<i>Imp</i>	A. Georgopoulos	Greece



F. DeAngelis (I-98) rounds leeward mark on the inside of A. Signorini (I-121) and sails *Le Coq Hardi* to win the race and the series.