



MIKE ELIASON / NEWS-PRESS

The crew aboard FOB Tony makes the first turn during Wednesday's Melges class race.

SHISAYO

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might get sloppy."

Thumper, which finished in second place, was ahead of the pack after the first turn, but Bjorkman took Shisayo on a higher course and managed to get the most out of the wind while avoiding the kelp that would have killed any momentum in the weak breeze. The boats that did get tangled in the ample forests off Santa Barbara's shore appeared

to come to a complete stop, and with only a gentle wind pushing them it took a long time to regain any semblance of speed.

"Today's big thing to watch really was the kelp," Hunt said. "There's a lot of kelp out there and the kelp can stop the boat completely in the water, so it's kind of a kelp game."

That one wise choice and Hunt's work on the spinnaker was enough for Shisayo to claim first by a sizeable margin, as the course was shortened by a lap by the race committee

when it was determined that there was not enough wind to complete the original course.

"Well, the most important thing is that they do it fairly, and that's what they did," Bjorkman said of the shortening. "We were supposed to do another lap, and there's no way we could have done another lap. The race committee does a great job of watching the wind and seeing what it's doing. They do a great job."

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