



RACE REVIEW MUGELLO 11 - 13 JULY 2014

Gaidai's first P2 after a dramatic race!

Tsunami RT driver achieved his best ever performance at Porsche Carrera Cup driving on slick tyres under the Mugello rain!



Leading the race and finishing second under heavy rain in Mugello is definitely an achievement for a gentleman driver like Oleksandr Gaidai. It happened in Race 1 at Mugello and it was a reward for the hard job the Ukrainian had done all the previous years. In Race 2, Alex had an accident from 4th that deprived him from any chance to fight for the podium. The PCCI weekend at Mugello was difficult, the weather was unpredictable, Gaidai had ups and downs but the final verdict for Tsunami RT is definitely positive!

Gaidai fighting on slick tyres against Cairoli under heavy rain at the last lap of Race 1!

Qualifying

On the exit from the pit lane Alex's gearbox stuck at third gear because of a malfunctioning gearbox compressor. Alex had limited time to do his best but got into the top eight. In the second qualifying Gaidai was always 8th fastest with (1'54"024). The Tsunami RT driver was non happy with his performance and blamed himself for the car setup: *"We stiffened the car a lot and it was too much reactive and oversteering in every corner. It has been my mistake and I have to learn from it"*. Gianluca Giraudi took the pole position (No 11, 1'52"557) followed by M. Monti (No 23), Alberto De Amicis (No 8) and Matteo Cairoli (No 16) on the grid of Race 1. Alex needed to be on top6 to have a chance to fight for the podium on Race 2.

Race 1

Alex Gaidai did a fantastic job, a demonstration of driving skills more than anything. Weather was tricky at the start and all teams kept their cars lifted up to the last minute on the grid. Given that tarmac was mostly dry, all cars started on slick but after few laps it started raining again. Top drivers entered the pit lane for grooved tyres but Gaidai was the first who took the risk to go on with slicks, a choice that was replicated by few other

“Super! It was very scary but cool!”

OLEKSANDR GAIDAI, AFTER RACE 1

drivers. Driving at 250 kmh on the long Mugello straight under heavy rain was pretty scary but rewarding in the end. Alex kept his Porsche on track and lead the race up to the last lap when Matteo Cairoli closed the gap on rain tyres. After a beautiful battle the 18 year old talent overtook the Gaidai to win a dramatic race. Alex didn't take more risks and accepted his first podium finish in the Italian PCC with gratification.

Alex's second place overall is probably the best performance in his PCC career so far. The Tsunami driver was delighted in the end: *“Super! It was very scary but cool! In the end the rain became stronger but I decided not to change the tyres. I wanted to check myself - if I can do that or not. And I did it!”*

Race 2

The second race at Mugello and 6th round of the PCCI 2014 was not as good for Oleksandr Gaidai and Tsunami RT. Our driver started well from third row, he gained immediately a position to 4th but in the third lap he had a contact with Liberati on the first corner, trying to avoid Melnikov, who was smoking his wheels on braking. From the contact, the steering wheel bar was damaged and Gaidai's race was ruined. Alex restarted from the back of the field - as the engine wouldn't start for half a minute - and fought up to 8th place, assisted by the pace car that entered the track for two laps. In the penultimate lap Alex felt the front right tyre of his Porsche blowing out on the straight line. In the end, Gaidai (retired but officially classified 13th) was frustrated: *“I could do a good race but in the end I had the first retirement of the year”*. After the race Liberati approached the Ukrainian asking for an explanation for the accident that had occurred between the two drivers. The event was replicated on in car videos in front of the race director and it was obvious that Gaidai could not avoid the contact on the first corner. So the accident was regarded a racing incident. Alberto de Amicis surprisingly won the race.



Mugello is one of Alex's favorite and it was the first to reward him with a podium finish.

PCCI after Mugello: 1. Cairoli 77; 2. Postiglione & Giraudi 56; 4. Liberati 51; 5. De Amicis 41; 6. Gaidai 33; 7. De Giacomi 25; 8. Melnikov 18; 9. Berton 15; 10. Monti 12; 11. Proietti 4; 12. Negra 3; 13. Roda e Solieri1.

Porsche Carrera Cup Italia takes a long summer break and returns to action at Paul Ricard (France) in the last weekend of August (30-31/8).



From left to right: 1. Alex concentrating before the race; 2. Lonely Gaidai at Mugello Race 2; 3. Congratulations to Race 2 winner, Alberto de Amicis.