



RACE REVIEW PAUL RICARD 29 - 31 AUGUST 2014

Gaidai aims to the top!

After two tough races at Paul Ricard, Gaidai comes out with a podium finish and a fastest race lap - the very first in his career!



Oleksandr Gaidai demonstrated his potential early in the weekend at Paul Ricard. The Tsunami RT driver was among the top 5 fastest PCCI drivers in Free Practice 1 - just 0,3" behind fastest Cairoli - despite he couldn't connect the bits perfectly during the session. On Saturday, Alex was 2nd fastest in FP2, beaten only by Cairoli and looked confident for a good qualifying.

**Gaidai leading
experienced Vito
Postiglione in 3rd
position in Race 1.**

Qualifying

Improving slightly his lap time from FP2, Gaidai was 4th fastest in the qualifying for Race 1 (1'23'575), while Cairoli took the pole. In the end of the session our driver was happy with his performance even if he could have made it to the first row. As Alex said, *"I am satisfied, it was a good session but again I lost 3 tenths on the last corner"*.

Race 1

Right from the start of the race it became obvious to everybody that Alex stepped up on a different level this year. The Tsunami RT driver started the race from 4th and soon overtook Giraudi to 3rd. In the first laps, while Cairoli looked unbeatable ahead, Alex started pressing Liberati for second. The third place on the podium seemed to be realistic for our driver till he committed a small error on Signes corner that resulted in losing his position from Postiglione and Giraudi. Gaidai managed to overtake Giraudi with a decisive move in the last corner to 4th and defended his place from Berton to the flag. After the race, Vito Postiglione - who had finished 3rd - was given 25" penalty for driving out of the track limits repeatedly. As a result, Alex Gaidai was classified 3rd. It was a deserved podium!

***“With his fastest lap in Race 2
the Ukrainian demonstrated
his top aspirations!”***

WWW.CARRERACUPITALIA.COM

Race 2

Alex Gaidai started from 4th and finished Race 2 in 8th position at Paul Ricard. The result doesn't reflect the speed our driver demonstrated during the French PCCI weekend.

Alex was in the top five when he attempted to overtake Giraudi in the last right corner - in a copy-paste move from the first race - but spun. Then he had a second spin - probably on oil left by Fulgenzi's car on the tarmac - and restarted 13th. The Ukrainian didn't lose his momentum though. He overtook Proietti and De Giacomi and in the process he did the fastest race lap (1'24"384) for the first time in his career. Alex finished 8th so he was not as happy as he deserved to be, but the outcome of the weekend was more than positive.

The youngest driver of PCCI, Matteo Cairoli, was the absolute dominator on both races at Paul Ricard and is favourite for the 2014 title, thanks to a clear advantage in the provisional standings. The 18 year old Italian from Como was followed on both races on the other youngster of PCCI Edoardo Liberati, who is the runner up in the classification.

After the Paul Ricard race, Alex Gaidai gained something more than a podium finish and a fastest race lap at Paul Ricard: he gained everybody's respect as a driver capable to fight for a podium finish in every single race of Porsche Carrera Cup Italia. The next meeting of the Porsche Carrera Cup Italia 2014 will be held at the Roman circuit of Vallelunga on 13-14 September for rounds 9 and 10 of the series.



Ukraine - Russia friendship in the Porsche Carrera Cup Italia paddock: Ilya Melnikov paid a visit to Alex Gaidai after both Paul Ricard races.

PCCI after Paul Ricard: 1. Cairoli 115; 2. Liberati 76; 3. Giraudi 70; 4. Postiglione 58; 5. De Amicis 51; 6. Gaidai 47; 7. De Giacomi & Melnikov 25



From left: 1. Alex started from 2nd row on both races at Paul Ricard; 2. Clean but aggressive style on the right hand corner leading to Mistral straight; 3. Irina Kolomeitseva looking happy during Race 1.