



A class win and a P2 for Gaidai

RACE **PAUL RICARD**
23-25 OCTOBER 2015

Despite he missed the free practice and had a disastrous qualifying session, the Tsunami driver fought back in both weekend races of and left completed the season with a dominant win and a 2nd place in his class.



Since Tsunami RT missed the Navarra three race - weekend (the cancelled race of Ledenon was held in Spain) there were no title hopes for Alex Gaidai in the class B. The Ukrainian arrived to the circuit only on Friday having missed the free practice that was scheduled on Thursday.

Gaidai entered the qualifying with zero practice and paid the price when he hit a kerb in his third lap destroying the front bumper of his Porsche. As a result, the Tsunami driver had to complete Q1 and Q2 with a half broken bumper and without the underlying spoiler. Gaidai was qualified only 13th for race 1 and 14th for race 2.

Race 1

Gaidai had a fantastic start and immediately overtook his rivals to lead the category B. He did a flawless race and took the flag 1st in his class and 10th overall. It seemed to be an easy race for the Ukrainian as he was never threatened by Christoph Lapierre or Roar Lindland, his gentlemen rivals.

A. Gaidai: "I did no tests on this track this year, I also missed the free practice and did the qualifying with a damaged bumper so before the start I felt insecure. But the race made a statement. I let only Matthieu Jaminet pass me: he was fighting for the overall win and I didn't want to hold him, so I let him pass intentionally. For me this race is a step towards next season and to faster driving".

1. S. Palette 23 laps in 35:01", 2. V. Beltoise +3.081, 3. J. Pla +4.142, 4. M. Jaminet +5.838, 5. J. Gounon +5.844, 6. N. Marroc +15.545, 7. M. Jousse +15.696, 8. J. De Narda +16.140, 9. A. Cougnaud +16.977, 10. O. Gaidai +28.082"

Race 2

This race was way too harder for Gaidai. He didn't start the way he wanted from the back of the field. Right from the start Alex attacked Egidio Perfetti and when the Italian made a mistake and damaged his bumper, the Ukrainian immediately passed him. The fight with Lindland was much harder and lasted several laps. Roar was defending well but Gaidai found the right moment when there were two cars ahead and he took advantage of the Norwegian's hesitation. In the last two laps Gaidai overtook Joffrey de Narda and before the end of the race Nicolas Marroc and finished 9th overall an 2nd in his class, 6" behind 2015 category B champion Christophe Lapierre.

A. Gaidai: "The season was rich and difficult. I learned a lot and adopted some new driving elements. I look back on the second part of the season, which I sacrificed for changing my driving style. Well, the last races, were not the best but not the worst. Next year the championship will be very interesting. There will be 4 races outside France [in Spa and Barcelona], many rivals. It will be an exciting fight".

1. M. Jaminet 17 laps in 25:44", 2. S. Palette +2.025, 3. V. Beltoise +2.673, 4. J. Pla +8.087, 5. J. Gounon +15.087, 6. M. Jousse +16.973, 7. Cougnaud +19.604, 8. C. Lapierre +20.803, 9. O. Gaidai + 26.070



The Tsunami team was compact but effective in Paul Ricard. From left to right: Fabrizio, Stephane, Francesco, Anja, Alex, Vitaly, Stelios and Gianni.

Gaidai took the win in his class in race 1 in front of Lindland and Perfetti.

Alex had a good and clear fight with Roar Lindland in race 2 for the 2nd place in class B. Lapierre was the winner and the deserved champion in the class for third time.

PCCF 2015 FINAL STANDINGS

Drivers (overall): 1. M. Jousse 176 points; 2. M. Jaminet 174; 3. S. Palette 170; 4. V. Beltoise 154; 5. J. Pla 149; 6. J. Gounon 127

Gentlemen drivers: 1. C. Lapierre 240 points; 2. R. Lindland 203; **3. O. Gaidai 148**; 4. D. Diaz-Varela 126; 5. E. Perfetti 125

