



Title hopes still alive for Ledogar

RACE **VALLELUNGA**
11-13 SEPTEMBER 2015

The french star of Tsunami RT is still in course for the Italian title thanks to his podium results in Vallelunga. Gaidai had a complicated weekend culminated in a fantastic - but unlucky - race 2



Beautiful Sabina Akterina, a Tsunami RT fan and motorsport addict from Russia, was the winner of our facebook page photo contest "Motorsport can be funny". Sabina's prize was a weekend in Vallelunga as a guest of our team.

Great performance from Alex Gaidai in race 2. The Tsunami driver had an epic fight with Pellinen and Giraudi for P4 till 5' from the end, when a metallic object pierced the fender of the 911 and destroyed the brake tubes at 200 km/h!

Ledogar was 2nd on the podium in both Vallelunga races. 17 year old Matteo Drudi won his first ever PCC race on Sunday and now is the youngest winner in the history of the Italian series.

PCCI 2015 STANDINGS AFTER ROUND 5 - VALLELUNGA

Drivers (overall): 1. Agostini 149 points; 2. Ledogar 121; 3. Drudi 98; 4. Giraudi 87; 5. Colombo 55; 6. Fontana 51; 7. De Amicis/Fulgenzi 48; 9. Gaidai 46;

Teams: 1. Antonelli Motorsport CP Padova 123; 2. Tsunami RT 103; 3. Dinamic Motorsport 78; 4. Antonelli Motorsport CP Torino

Qualifying

Qualifying 1 was red flagged for Stefano Colombo's accident. After the track got cleared Côme Ledogar managed to pull out a lap valid to enter the top-8 and fight for the pole in Q2. Oleksandr Gaidai had problems with traffic again and he didn't make it in Q2. He was only 13th fastest. In Q2, Côme had a one more battle with Riccardo Agostini for the pole. The Italian was fastest by 0,3" in the end of the session. Ledogar started race 1 from first row but second.

Race 1

The Saturday Race was not the best possible for Tsunami. Côme Ledogar pressed Agostini in the first lap but he was not a threat for the Italian after that. In the end of the race Matteo Drudi attacked Côme but didn't manage to overtake him, so the French took the flag 2nd. Gaidai finished 12th so this was the first race in 2015 he scored no points.

Ledogar: "It was a nice race but now we have to continue working for tomorrow. Drudi improves, so he drives faster and faster. I did all my best just as usual. The fight was completely honest. It was sometimes difficult to keep him back but there's nothing easy in motorsport".

Gaidai: "It was not easy to start from 13th. Vallelunga is the trickiest track for me, the gap between me and the leader is the biggest here. I just can't find the driving style for it. P12 place is a bad result. I think I should change something in myself. To drive in a different way, to look for a better trajectory".

1. Riccardo Agostini 19 laps in 31'13"994; 2. Côme Ledogar +3"035; 3. Mattia Drudi +3"391; 4. Enrico Fulgenzi +23"104; 5. Andrea Fontana +23"628; 6. Aku Pellinen +26"006; ... 12. Oleksandr Gaidai +43"011;

Race 2

Ledogar had to avoid Fulgenzi at the start so he lost a position from Agostini. Côme started attacking right away and managed to overtake his rival to 2nd. Subsequently Agostini attacked furiously the Tsunami driver in the "tornantino" corner pushing him out of the line. From the collision, Côme lost two positions, Drudi took the lead of the race and Agostini had a tyre puncture that obliged him to change it and enter the race in the last position. Ledogar couldn't fill the gap to the 17 Drudi and he settled to second. Gaidai had a phenomenal race 2 - he actually seemed a completely different driver from Saturday. Alex had a good start, overtook several cars and had a fierce but fair battle with Pellinen and Giraudi for 4th. 5' before the finish, Alex lost his brakes at 200 km/h. He managed to save the car from total loss but he lost a decent 4-5th position.

Ledogar: "Despite I had a bad start I did a fast first lap with many overtakings - it was funny. The fight with Agostini was also funny. If you want to be a champion you need not only speed but use your brain. I did my best to avoid contact but he crashed into me two times and at the end he was out of the race. Drudi was really fast today and after he's made a big gap it was impossible then to catch him. My congratulations to him, he is constantly progressing".

Gaidai: "Today I knew I had nothing to lose so my state of mind was completely different. The start was good, I overtook several cars and during the next two laps overtook two more and climbed to 5th. Then the race was tough: I had to defend my position from Giraudi while trying to overtake Pellinen. Irina helped me a lot, motivating me to look forward and concentrate to overtake Aku who was making mistakes but defended his position skilfully. And then in corner 2 I heard a metallic sound under the car and discovered I had no brakes at 200 km/h!! I decided to provoke a spin, otherwise I would hit the wall. Despite the damage, it was my best ever race in Vallelunga. It was my 4th race with left-foot braking and the first I drove well. And the first lap was probably my career's best!"

1. Mattia Drudi 18 laps in 29'44"553; 2. Côme Ledogar +7"565; 3. Andrea Fontana +19"322; 4. Aku Pellinen +25"854; 5. Enrico Fulgenzi +29"104; 6. Niccolò Mercatali +32"426;

As far as the Carrera Cup Italia title chase, Côme Ledogar seemed hopeless against Agostini on Saturday evening when the gap between the two was 38 points. After the second race of Vallelunga and thanks to Agostini's retirement, the Tsunami driver is still in the game as his gap to his rival is decreased to 28 points. And there are 4 races left till the end of the championship.

Tsunami RT moves to Misano circuit on September 25-27th for the penultimate round of the 2015 Carrera Cup Italia.