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Porsche Carrera Cup Italia Round 5, Vallelunga 9-11 September

Côme Ledogar dominates Vallelunga weekend!

Two wins, a P2 and two pole positions for an exceptional Ledogar plus a P3 for ever growing Mik Grenier: the results from Vallelunga bring the French star closer to the PCCI title and keep Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova hopes alive for the respective Team leadership.

The Ukrainian team went to Vallelunga with a different strategy. Côme Ledogar was on his own at the wheel of the #13 Porsche, while Alex Gaidai and Mik Grenier shared the #33 car. The strategy paid off as the French extended his leadership to 33 points from second (Mattia Drudi) while Tsunami RT - CPP closed the gap from Dinamic to only 9 points. Ledogar is considered the absolute favourite for the 2016 title and the dominant figure in the Italian series with 7 wins, 7 fastest laps and 4 pole position in 15 races out of 21 of the season.

Qualifying 1 & 2

Ledogar took the pole position for race 1 and P2 for race 2 but between the two sessions Drudi's car was lifted while in parc fermé status and after an appeal by his team his position at the grid, the race result and the PCCI standings are considered "sub judice". Mikael Grenier was 4th fastest and secured a place in the second row for his sprint race 1 while Alex Gaidai, who was in difficulty to find the tyre grip limits, was placed only 9th at the grid of the second sprint race.

#13 Côme Ledogar: "It was all OK with the car and we did a really good job".

#33 Mikael Grenier: "I did a mistake on a right corner during my best lap and I lost some tenths. It is my fault because I could be easily 3rd if not second on the grid but in anyway I think this was my best qualifying performance so far. The car is pretty good".



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#33 Alex Gaidai: "I haven't tested here recently and today I had to do half free practice and qualifying, so my position is predictable. I am happy though that I am pretty fast on used tyres so on the race I will be improved for sure".

Race 1

Tsunami RT Centro Porsche Padova driver Côme Ledogar lost his leadership after the start and had to wait for almost half race behind Drudi to attack as the race proceeded behind the safety car. After the SC went in, the French attempted different attacks to his Italian rival and pulled out a thrilling manoeuvre on the fast right corner that gave him back the lead of the race. His move was considered "the overtaking of the year" by Italian commentators and gave Ledogar the first win of the weekend. While the safety car was on track, Mikael Grenier was in 5th behind de Giacomi and Scalvini, who had probably overtaken the Canadian under yellow flag. But after the restart of the race, Mik won two wonderful fights and stepped third on the podium following Ledogar and Drudi.

#13 Côme Ledogar: "It was a really good race. We had a bad start and lost the lead but after the safety car re-entered I managed to overtake Drudi on a fast corner and I am really proud of it. I would like to dedicate my victory to friends and family at San Pier Niceto village in Sicily".

#33 Mikael Grenier: "I am quite happy with the result even if we could be in 2nd place today". We had a good start and had the safety car where I lost two positions from De Giacomi and Salvini. Since there was no penalty for them I had to fight to overtake them after the entry of the safety car and lost a lot of time".

Race 1 Classification

1. Come Ledogar, 12 laps in 27'18"069 (107,731 kmh); 2. Mattia Drudi +3"084; **3. Mikael Grenier +8"009;** 4. Enrico Fulgenzi +14"110; 5. Simone laquinta +14"246; 6. Gianmarco Quaresmini +17"790;

Race 2

Côme Ledogar did the double winning the second race on the wet this time. The race started behind the safety car and after its entry the French star of Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova managed to pull out a clean overtake - as he was starting from second - and took the flag first while it was already pretty dark. The race was bitter sweet for the Ukrainian team as Alex Gaidai's car was damaged seriously after it was crashed by Enrico Fulgenzi out of the track The Tsunami team mechanics had to work after hours to fix the damaged car for the third race.

#33 Alex Gaidai: "Fulgenzi caught me outside the track. I had made a mistake on the brakes before the corner, got out of the track to the grass, then turned around and at that moment Fulgenzi hit my car on a very high speed provoking serious damages at the front bumper, the fender and the radiator at least..."

Race 2 Classification

1. Come Ledogar, 13 laps in 26'55"790 (118,318 Km/h) 2. Mattia Drudi +3"801; 3. Alessio Rovera +11"078; 4. Kevin Giovesi +22"207; 5. Alex De Giacomi +26"837; 6. Daniele Di Amato +28"003;

Race 3

Given the 15" extra time in his pit-stop for the 45' Sunday race, Côme Ledogar knew he had no hopes for an outright third win in Vallelunga and realistically hoped only for a P3 on the podium. Despite the French lost the leadership after the start and had to stay behind Drudi for different laps at the first part of the race, he



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managed to pull out a fantastic performance in the second part and take the flag in 2nd position, having closed remarkably the gap from his Italian opponent. In the #33 car, Alex Gaidai was the one who took the start and had a long, exciting fight for P4 in the first laps, till the moment the Ukrainian was pushed out to spinning by Daniele di Amato. Gaidai managed to restart the race but he handed the car to Grenier from 13th place. After the drivers' change the Canadian took the wheel and thanks to a remarkably strong pace he finished the 45" race in 8th position.

#13 Côme Ledogar: "The start was rather difficult for me and I couldn't keep the P1. Drudi was driving very well and it was difficult to overtake him. Then I had that "penalty" for the last win and I had to wait 15 seconds on the pit-stop, it is quite a long time. When I was back on the track I managed to do my best and to get as close as possible to Drudi. With these regulations it's not easy but we scored as much points as we could. We did a great job anyway and I am happy about it".

#33 Alex Gaidai: "Even if it's not your favourite track you can try to achieve a good result and I did my best during this weekend. Unfortunately that incident with di Amato didn't let us fight for the podium. But I'm glad that after such a long break my speed is rather high".

#33 Mikael Grenier: "That's not what we wanted but that was not Alex's fault because he was pushed by Di Amato. Yesterday I had to finish and I got to the podium and today was not the day we wanted but it can happen on any race and it's not the end of the world although for the Championship it's not the best".

Race 3 Classification

1. Mattia Drudi in 28 giri in 47'32"102 (144.373 Km/h); **2. Come Ledogar +4"742;** 3. Kevin Giovesi & Simone Iaquinta +10"307; 4. Alessio Rovera +19"386; 5. Enrico Fulgenzi +27"451; 6. Daniele Di Amato +28"490; ... **8. Mikael Grenier & Oleksandr Gaidai +37"674**

CARRERA CUP ITALIA CLASSIFICATIONS AFTER VALLELUNGA

After the racing weekend in Vallelunga with 15 out of 21 races complete, #13 Côme Ledogar extends his lead in the provisional Carrera Cup Italia standings with 179 points, followed by Mattia Drudi (146p.) and Alessio Rovera (140p.). Mik Grenier climbed to 5th with 94 points and Alex Gaidai stands 9th with 78 p. In the teams classification, Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova stands always in 2nd place with 222 points but a bit closer to Dinamic Motorsport (231 p.). For the complete classifications visit the following link on the official PCCI website: <u>http://www.carreracupitalia.it/ita/stagione-classifiche</u>

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