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Ledogar is almost 2016 champion

The Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova driver from France is closer than ever to win the 2016 Carrera Cup Italia title even if he didn't win in Imola - he actually finished 2nd twice during the last weekend. The French star will have to wait three more weeks to celebrate in Mugello, where the Ukrainian team will give the ultimate fight for the teams' title.

Qualifying 1 & 2

The Qualifying sessions 1 and 2 of Imola were one more time a fight for the ultimate lap between Côme Ledogar and Mattia Drudi. The Italian talent outperformed the French star in Q1 by two tenths with 1'45"265 and reserved the pole position for Race 1. But in Q2, Ledogar demonstrated his class with an incredible 1'44"683 in his very last lap that put him in pole position on the grid of Race 2 and Race 3. The #33 Porsche of Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova had some issues in the rear suspension, so both Mik Grenier and Alex Gaidai faced serious problems with the balance of the car and performed under their actual potential. The Canadian couldn't get better than 7th in Q1 with 1'46"339 and the Ukrainian was only 10th in Q2 with 1'47"153.

#13 Côme Ledogar: *"This (Q2) was a very good lap, one of the best in my life! I really don't know how I pulled out this lap time!"*

#33 Alex Gaidai: *"Côme did a lap time like only he can do! But from our side we are not so far away as it looks on the timesheet. The car was not behaving well – we didn't have the right feeling on the rear, we were losing it all the time. Besides, on my fast lap there were yellow flags twice so I'm not satisfied with this result".*

#33 Mikael Grenier: *"I felt the car strange in the rear - the same as Alex did. I got out of the track 4-5 times trying to overcome this problem. There must be something we should check on the car".*

Race 1

Drudi and Ledogar, the undisputed stars of the 2016 season, started and finished the first race of the weekend in 1st and 2nd position. Côme could keep the Italian's pace all the way but this was not enough to attack for the victory. Not far from the race leaders, Mik Grenier and Alessio Rovera offered us the most spectacular fight for P5 in the 25' race. Our Canadian driver was faster and finished in 5th despite the threatening attacks from his Italian rival.

#13 Côme Ledogar: *"You know some days you are faster and others not. Today was one of these days, Drudi was faster. I tried to catch him - we always try and try - and maybe for two laps I closed the gap a bit but I couldn't get closer. The car was OK but there are some things we can improve on it for the second race".*

#33 Mikael Grenier: *"Well it was a difficult race all the way. At the beginning I gained a position and finished like this but the pressure from Rovera was very tough. For different laps I hardly kept my position on the main straight. Then at one point he made a mistake on the Rivazza corner and I created a small gap that I kept it to the end. The car was OK today".*

Race 1 Classification

1. Mattia Drudi 16 laps in 28'18.514 (166,474 Km/h); **2. Come Ledogar +3"784**; 3. Daniele Di Amato +8"332; 4. Edoardo Liberati +8"929; **5. Mikael Grenier +14"155**; 6. Alessio Rovera +17"992;

Race 2

The second Carrera Cup Italia race in Imola could have been a triumph for Côme Ledogar but finished in a disappointing way for him and Tsunami-RT Centro Porsche Padova. Having started from pole position, the 2016 Blancpain champion turned first in the Tamburello corner and for the following laps he defended brilliantly his lead from Mattia Drudi's attacks. But the dream lasted only for seven laps because Ledogar was given a drive-through penalty for jump-starting. After the drive - through, Côme returned to the track in P6 and stayed there until the flag. Ledogar was inconsolable in the end because he was by far the fastest driver in the race and author of a remarkable fastest lap (1'45"516). Alex Gaidai finished the race in 7th position after he showed a strong pace despite the lack of enough testing kilometres during the weekend.

#13 Côme Ledogar: *"There was nothing at the start for me but It is better not debating it because we have nothing to gain. We simply must focus on the Sunday race and keep our concentration for the title chase".*

#33 Alex Gaidai: *"My race was pretty good except my small mistake in Rivazza corner in the very first lap. I am quite satisfied with my pace today, given the lack of testing and the problems we faced in qualifying".*

Race 2 Classification

1. Mattia Drudi 16 laps in 28'23"044 (166,031 Km/h); 2. Daniele Di Amato +2"496; 3. Alessio Rovera +15"341; 4. Simone Iaquina +16"992; 5. Enrico Fulgenzi +17"115; **6. Come Ledogar +27"382**; **7. Oleksandr Gaidai +43"789**;

Race 3

This was definitely one of the most exciting races of 2016 Carrera Cup Italia and one that practically concluded the fight for the drivers' title in favour of Tsunami driver Côme Ledogar. The French dominated the race till the pit stop, where his 10" time penalty (he was in P2 in the previous 45' race in Vallelunga) pulled him back in 3rd behind Fulgenzi and Rovera. While Drudi was getting out of the race for transmission problems the French star was again the fastest man on the track and chased the win to the end. After a thrilling fight with Fulgenzi, Ledogar chased Rovera to the end and finished 2nd for only 0,082"! Rovera was joyful for his first ever PCCI victory but Ledogar was the man of the race: instead of settling in a podium finish that was enough for his title interests, he gave a spectacular fight to win. In the first stint of the race, Mik Grenier was implicated in a fierce fight between Iaquina and Di Amato and remarkably saved his car from the carnage in Rivazza corner, handed it to his team mate Alex Gaidai and the Ukrainian drove it heroically to the flag in 5th position. On almost destroyed tyres...

#33 Alex Gaidai: *"This race was quite an experience as the car was uncontrollable in Piratella and Acque Minerali corners because of the tyre damage and the side impacts from Mik's fight with Iaquina. Anyway, we hope next race will bring us the team title and the championship for Côme!"*

#33 Mikael Grenier: *"It wasn't the result we wanted but it was not a bad weekend either. Our problem in Qualifying set us back but we showed in the endurance race that we were there. I think before the crash it was a very nice race, Alex did a good job to finish with a bit of a damaged car."*

Race 3 Classification

1. Alessio Rovera 25 laps in 48'11"026, (152,821 Km/h); **2. Côme Ledogar +0"082**; 3. Edoardo Liberati +2"697; 4. Gianmarco Quaresmini +10"368; **5. Mikael Grenier - Alex Gaidai +22"869**; 6. Stefano Zanini +29"215;

CARRERA CUP ITALIA CLASSIFICATIONS AFTER IMOLA II

Before the ultimate racing weekend of the Carrera Cup Italia 2016 and with 3 races remaining, Côme Ledogar is 39 points clear in the standings from currently second Alessio Rovera while Mattia Drudi is already out of the chase for the title after his DNF yesterday in Imola. With maximum 43 points available for a driver in Mugello (2 wins, 1 pole and 2 fastest laps), the Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova star needs only a finish in ~~6th position~~ in one of the 3 races to be officially nominated 2016 champion. As far as the Team classification concerns, Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova still stands 2nd after team Dinamic.

For the complete classifications visit the following link on the official PCCI website: <http://www.carreracupitalia.it/ita/stagione-classifiche>

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Media requests:

media@tsunami-rt.com