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Media Release #02.2017**April 30th, 2017****Porsche Carrera Cup Italia, Races 1 - 2, Imola.**

Rovera in top form but unlucky

Alessio Rovera was among the strongest drivers in the first racing weekend of the PCCI season at Imola pulling out the fastest lap in both races. 2nd in the first race after a long fight for victory, the Tsunami RT driver finished race 2 in misery for a failed gearbox sensor. Remarkable progress for Lino and Carlo Curti brothers in their first PCCI event.

In Qualifying, five young talents attending the Porsche Scholarship Programme occupied the first three rows at the grid of race 1. Tsunami RT driver Alessio Rovera reserved a place in first row, missing the pole only for 26 milliseconds in Q2 from 17 year old Riccardo Pera. Alessio's best lap was 1'44"520 while Pera - who was even faster in Q1 - pulled out 1'44"494.

The Italian brothers Curti, who are part of the Tsunami RT this year, both struggled in Qualifying, as they had marginal experience at Imola. Lino did 1'47"300 - valid for 16th at the grid - and Carlo lapped 1'48"606 to qualify behind him, in 17th.

Race 1

The Saturday race of 28 minutes +1 lap provided a fantastic battle for victory between Riccardo Pera and Alessio Rovera. The Italian talent in the Tsunami RT 991 took the flag in second just 0,589" behind the leader. While Alessio was not happy for missing the first step on the podium, he was embraced with excitement in the team's tent. Alessio attacked furiously towards the end of the race pulling out the fastest lap in the process .

The ever smiling brothers Curti demonstrated a remarkable progress in the first race and they took the flag close to the points zone: Lino finished the race 11th and Carlo 12th in a close distance.

Drivers' quotes after Race 1

Alessio Rovera (#12): *"It was a nice battle because it is very difficult to overtake here and ABS helped on that - It would have been tougher without. I did a good start but I think in the first laps - while tyre pressure is still low - they were faster. We were faster towards the end of the race, when tyre pressure gets higher."*

Lino Curti (#81): *"First race of an amazing championship! I did a good start and overtook two drivers. All in all it was a step ahead. I need half second to reach the front group but during the race I managed to stay closer. I still lack consistency".*

Carlo Curti (#18): *"I am pretty happy with my pace. I had some fights with Reggiani, it was nice and spectacular. At the start I stalled but I managed to pull an overtake. But I lacked confidence. The car was perfect!"*

Race 2

On Sunday morning Race 2, Alessio Rovera started from 5th in front of Saturday's winner Riccardo Pera - according to the reversed starting order on the grid for the top 6 drivers of the first race. Alessio did a remarkable start gaining immediately two places before Tamburello corner and climbed to 2nd behind Enrico Fulgenzi. From that moment, a fierce but clean, battle was on between the two Italians. Rovera was fighting to win when a gearbox sensor destroyed his remarkable race and let Fulgenzi celebrate his win. The Tsunami driver managed to make it to the finish in 6th gear in P12 but took a single point for the championship thanks to his second fastest race lap of the weekend.

Lino Curti had a punctured tyre after a crash at the start of the race but managed to finish in 16th after an obligatory pit stop for tyre change. Carlo Curti performed at his weekend's best and scored his very first point in PCCI with a finish in 10th.

Drivers' quotes after Race 2

Alessio Rovera (#12): *"I was happy with the car, going very well for a win but I had bad luck - at least I did the fastest lap and managed to finish the race despite the problem".*

Lino Curti (#81): *"I crashed with Francesca Linossi at the start, she hit my wheel and the tyre exploded. After the tyre change I had a really good pace, driving one second faster than my yesterday's time! Without the incident I'm sure I would have finished in top 10. Well, next time at Misano!"*

Carlo Curti (#18): *"I'm happy with my finish but not with my speed and this upsets me. I still lack confidence. But 10th at the finish was good, so I can't wait till Misano to race again!"*

Click here to see the official PCCI 2017 results:
<http://www.carreracapitalia.it/ita/stagione-classifiche>

You can download high-resolution photos from Imola weekend here:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ywvjct1ou4lydus/AAUnQ7XQfGUCySDXPfX5SYa?dl=0>