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Porsche Carrera Cup France, Races 11 & 12, Paul Ricard

Rovera in chase of the Carrera Cup France title till the ultimate lap!

The Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova driver kept his hopes alive for the 2018 PCCF title up to the ultimate race of the season but didn't make it against Turk driver Ayhancan Guven.

Alessio Rovera arrived in Paul Ricard with a great opportunity to become the first ever non-French champion in the Carrera Cup France history because standings leader Julien Andlauer was busy in the 6 Hours of Fuji WEC race the same weekend. The Italian driver had to score at least 22 points in the last two races as well as to beat Ayhancan Guven on track - the only other driver still in chase of the 2018 title.

Race 1

Rovera was 3rd fastest in Qualifying practice 1 behind poleman Florian Latorre and Ayhancan Guven and ahead of Côme Ledogar, who was recruited as a guest star at the wheel of Andlauer's #555 Porsche.

In the race, while Guven took the lead pretty soon from Latorre, Rovera lost a position from Ledogar and finished in 4th place, which gained him precious points against Andlauer but at the same time his advantage from Guven was reduced to just one point. So, the fight for the championship would be decided in Sunday's race where each of the two candidates definitely needed to take the flag in front of the other.

As for the Tsunami RT gentleman driver Thomas Nicolle, he finished in 6th among category B French drivers.

#112 Alessio Rovera: *"It was hard because I didn't start well and then my pace was not what I expected and not at the level of the other drivers. I struggled to stay with them but in anyway we minimised the damage".*

#12 Thomas Nicolle: *"it was a hard race. I lost a bit of time at the start but I came back and finished it. I had two tough moments when I was dangerously pushed by other drivers".*

Race 2

Critical Qualifying practice 2 was disappointing for Rovera: while Guven took the pole position, the Italian was only 6th in the session and started the race from 3rd row.

The Sunday race, which was meant to be an easy task for the Turk had a thrilling ending, keeping Paul Ricard spectators on their toes up to the ultimate lap.

At the front, Latorre and Ledogar overtook Guven leaving him in 3rd place, while Rovera managed to overtake Chevalier and Hasse-Clot and was placed behind Guven's blue Porsche. The deployment of the safety car helped the Italian to stick behind his rival and immediately started playing a cat-and-mouse game with him in the last laps of the race.

In the final lap Rovera made the ultimate move on the inside of the Mistral chicane; the two cars came in contact and both drivers cut through the chicane. Alessio took the lead before the Signes corner but immediately saw his title hopes evaporating for a broken steering arm. Game over. Ayhancan Guven became the first foreign champion in Porsche Carrera Cup France history at that same moment.

The Italian managed to take the flag under a cloud of rubber smoke but was ultimately given 30" penalty for pushing a driver out of the track earlier in the race.

Thomas Nicolle gave a great display of performance in the last race of the season that reserved him 2nd place in the French category B.

#112 Alessio Rovera: *"It was difficult since I was starting from 6th. I tried, I gave it all. Fortunately it was the safety car that helped me get closer. Guven was closing very well on the corners. I tried a move in the final lap from the inside - I had previously tried to overtake him from the outside - but unfortunately our wheels came in contact and a steering arm was broken".*

#12 Thomas Nicolle: *"I am happy to be in P2. Of course there has been an accident that permitted me to climb in the race classification but my driving was better today".*

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