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Porsche Carrera Cup Italia, Races 13 & 14, Imola II

Rovera misses second Carrera Cup Italia title at thriller Imola finale.

The Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova driver won a wet Saturday race behind the safety car but was penalised for irregular restart. Rovera was classified in 5th in the Sunday race, which was red flagged and given a second start.

Alessio Rovera and Tommaso Mosca were easily the fastest drivers in Saturday's qualifying session, so the two Tsunami RT drivers reserved the first row at the grid of race 1. *"I am very happy because we brought back two important points"* said pole-setter Rovera with a wide smile in his face right after the session.

Race 1

There is not much to say about the Saturday race itself. Given the weather conditions, organisers should have postponed it for Sunday, considering that there were no other races on schedule - the weekend was actually a Porsche annual Festival. The wet race started and finished miserably behind the safety car.

The only drama was the fight between title candidate Bertonelli and Tsunami RT driver Tommaso Mosca in the first corner, a fight that secured the former the 2nd position after a cut through three corners later. It was a move that ultimately gave the win to the Dinamic driver, after the penalty given to winner Rovera for irregular restart after the safety car entered the pit lane.

This penalty, which was given during a race that was not actually a race - actual racing lasted no more than 2,5 minutes! - but a fight against aquaplaning behind a safety car, proved to be the title decider this year, because Rovera was classified in

7th, which means he had to start race 2 from 7th behind the other two title candidates, who were both ahead of him in the provisional standings.

#1 Alessio Rovera: *"Certainly the track was a nightmare, there was a lot of water and we had aquaplaning on the straight".*

#19 Tommaso Mosca: *"It's been a useless race. I lost a position from Bertonelli in the Tamburello corner and then we had a fight for the next three corners, till he cut through in the Villeneuve corner and gained some metres".*

#67 Alex De Giacomi: *"It's ridiculous giving a start under these conditions!"*

Race 2

The season's final race was a long lasting drama in perfect weather conditions this time. It was actually two races in one and in the end none at the paddock knew who really took the 2018 title. After Pellegrinelli's accident, who had started from pole, the race director employed the safety car and subsequently showed a red flag, for providing time to fix the destroyed barrier at the Acque minerali corner.

An hour later or so, a second standing start was given and pretty soon Rovera climbed in 3rd behind Mosca and laquinta who was leading the race. Safety car was employed again till the penultimate lap and the three top drivers finished the race in the same order, while PCCI standings leader Quaresmini took the flag in 5th.

But the race classification was ultimately based on the sum of the two race splits. According to that, laquinta was definitely the winner with Mosca in 2nd but it was Quaresmini - and not Rovera - in 3rd. The Tsunami RT driver was actually in 5th after Fulgenzi. Consequently, Gianmarco Quaresmini was crowned champion of the 2018 Porsche Carrera Cup Italia champion on the final podium of the season.

#1 Alessio Rovera: *"given that in the first race I was in a distance, the safety car didn't help us in the second race. Even if I won that race wouldn't have changed much. Everything started from yesterday's race".*

#19 Tommaso Mosca: *"the race went well and we are happy for this but we had the safety cars employed and they probably cost us time and maybe a win. I gave it all during the championship but I had many drawbacks. But we are happy with the way it ended. Unfortunately, after the accident at Mugello I committed mistakes in Vallelunga that I shouldn't have. Without them the title could have been in our hands".*

After two triumphant seasons - in 2016 with Côme Ledogar and in 2017 with Alessio Rovera - the big news in the Porsche Carrera Cup Italia is that Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova is not champion this year but runner-up in all classifications, drivers (Alessio Rovera), teams and Michelin Cup (Alex De Giacomi).

Next weekend 12-14 October, the final round of the Porsche Carrera Cup France is on programme and Alessio Rovera remains a valid candidate for the 2018 title in French soil this time.

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