



 REVIEW LE MANS 24H - 14 JUNE 2014

Estre and Tsunami RT dominate Le Mans but...

Estre and Tsunami RT was the strongest combination in the support event of the famous 24 hours race. A deserved victory was missed only for a blown tyre in the last lap...



The Porsche race at Le Mans was very special. Imagine 62 cars from Porsche Carrera Cup of France and Great Britain competing at the legendary La Sarthe circuit in front of 263.000 spectators and more than 1500 journalists from 40 countries. The 45' Saturday Porsche Cup race was the perfect appetiser for the 24 hours main course. Behind the wheel of the 991 GT3 there were many strong competitors, 1998 Le Mans 24h winner Laurent Aiello in guest star role and youtube sensation, car journalist Chris Harris. There was also Kevin Estre, the French and German Porsche Carrera Cup champion, Porsche Supercup runner up and official Mc Laren pilot at Blancpain series this year, racing under the Tsunami RT colours!

Kevin Estre lost a deserved win after he started from pole position and dominated the race

In the small village that was setup away from the main paddock, the Tsunami RT tent was the most followed of all. The reason was that Estre was considered the absolute favourite for this race. Kevin, who had raced in 2010 at the 13,6 km circuit, replaced Alex Gaidai behind the wheel. The Le Mans race was not valid for the classification of Porsche Carrera Cup France and Tsunami RT wanted to thank Kevin Estre for his precious coaching job with Alex last winter. The French champion used the same car Alex uses in the other races in France, the same number 13 and was supported by German engineer Michael Ruhs and a compact team of four mechanics.



Estre was only 5th fastest during the Free Practice session. He marked 4'06"135 (199,3 km/h) in the classic 13,6 km long La Sarthe circuit behind Bamber (4'05"004), Barker, Jousse and Dillman. Kevin was fastest at

***"I am sorry about Kevin's car,
he deserved the win.
But this is racing..."***

TOM DILLMAN, 2ND OVERALL

the beginning of the session but he had problems with traffic till the end - something normal given that there were so many cars in the circuit. In the end, Estre looked confident as ever and expressed his satisfaction for the car setup.

Qualifying

Estre demonstrated his superiority during the 45' qualifying session taking a fantastic pole in the 13,6 km long circuit among 60 other Porsche Carrera Cup competitors from 18 different countries! Kevin's best lap was 4'03"366, 2 tenths fastest than second Dillman but it was not a perfect lap either. On the video he showed us a terrifying moment at Porsche corner, when he lost and regained control beautifully of the rear at 212 km/h! *"This is very good for the team"*, said Kevin right after the technical inspection. Everybody was inspired by the driver's performance in Tsunami RT.

The race

Kevin roll started ideally from pole in the end of the formation lap and he took the lead in front of Dillman who was overtaken by Bamber right after. Bamber was very fast and started pressing the Tsunami pilot but the latter controlled the attacks. On lap 3 at the famous Hunadieres straight, the New Zealander - who is racing at Porsche Supercup after he won the Porsche Scholarship challenge in 2013 - slipstreamed Estre and when he momentarily took the lead drifted a bit towards the Tsunami Porsche. Kevin kept his line and as a result the cars touched at 275 km/h and the Tsunami car performed a breathtaking wheelie almost at full speed while spectators were cheerful watching this stunt on the screens. Kevin took the lead while Bamber's tyre blew out resulting in his immediate retirement.

Estre dominated the race till the end controlling Barker beautifully. His gap from the British driver was cut to 1" only when Kevin had to lap slower cars but when the traffic cleared, the Tsunami RT star regained the safety gap. In the very last lap, on the straight before the Indianapolis corner, Estre felt something on the rear and - bang! - the rear left tyre exploded at 270 km/h! The French driver controlled the car superbly while Barker was overtaking him to win the race just 3 km before the checkers flag. Kevin thought he could reach the end but there was no tyre left on the rim. So he parked the car safely but disappointingly on the track side. The French champion was inconsolable in the end. *"I did everything to save the tyres during the last laps and pushed only for two laps in order to make a gap from Barker for not giving him any slipstreaming advantage on the straight. I have lost races in my life but this was the worst. It is a petty because we did a great job with the team"*. No matter what, Kevin Estre and Tsunami RT (44th overall) had dominated the race for 10 of the 11 laps and kept the pole position and the fastest race lap as a souvenir for the future. So, keep in touch for more thrilling Tsunami RT news!

Final Classification

1. B. Barker (A) Parr Motorsport 11 tours en 45'07"642 - 2. T. Dillmann (A) RMS + 5.029 - 3. Lonni Martins (A) Racing Technology + 8.269 - 4. L. Aiello (A) Porsche AG + 13.082 - 5. S. Bottemanne (A) Sébastien Loeb Racing + 25.427 - 6. M. Jousse (A) Sébastien Loeb Racing + 25.633 - 7. J. Webster (A) Redline Racing + 26.138 - 8. M. Meadows (A) Samsung UHD TV Racing + 26.577 - 9. S. Noël (A) Racing Technology + 27.044 - 10. J. De Narda (A) @LoebRacing + 27.223... 12. L. Pasquali (B) IMSA Performance Matmut + 40.196...

Fastest Lap (qualifying): Kevin Estre 4'03"366 (201,6 kmh)
Fastest lap (race): Kevin Estre 4'04"514 (200,7 kmh)



***This was the
first race for
Kevin Estre with
Tsunami RT.***

