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Gaidai performs strongly at Spa!

The Tsunami RT driver finished 11th overall in the prestigious race of Spa among 36 drivers from Carrera Cup of Italy and France. Gaidai was P4 among PCCI drivers - his best result in the Italian series this year.

RACE **SPA**
23-25 JULY 2015



Alex Gaidai was 11th overall and 4th among Carrera Cup Italia drivers in his debut race at Spa-Francorchamps. A strong result for the Ukrainian driver since the race was on the wet on a very technical and fast circuit where he had minimum experience.

In the free practice of Thursday Tsunami RT showed up at Spa with its two drivers, Côme Ledogar and Alex Gaidai. The french star, who also competes in the Mpbil 1 Supercup, had to fly to Budapest right after the morning session. But before leaving he showed his class in FP1 lapping better than all the other Carrera Cup drivers from Italy, France and Asia. Alex was only 20th in FP1 and 19th in FP2 but had no worries: *"today everyone uses different wheels, so it is very difficult to understand where you really are. In qualifying everyone will be in the same conditions and I am sure that the result will be better"*.

In Qualifying Gaidai entered the super pole session (only the top 20 of Q1) and marked the 14th fastest time, beating both Italian driver Gianluca Giraudi, his reference point in PCCI, and his permanent PCCF rival Christophe Lapierre.

Gaidai seemed to enjoy Spa: *"the corners here are very fast, and it's quite hard to find the right entry speed. I haven't much experience on this track, but I really like it. The rolling start is easier than the one from the rest, so it's very difficult to gain positions from the start, unless rivals make mistakes"*. PCCF leader Mathieu Jaminet took the pole in front of Colombo.

It was raining on Saturday and the race was declared wet. Alex was 12th on the grid and started well but the water spray made life very difficult in the first laps: *"it wasn't even clear where I was - on the track or on the grass"*, said Alex. Then, when the cars began to disperse in pairs, it became a little easier. While French drivers Steven Palette and Mathieu Jaminet had an epic fight for P1, Gaidai was fighting with Nick Foster but without taking unnecessary risks. *"By the end of the race I made a mistake myself and Gianluca Giraudi came very close to me. I had to defend fiercely on the last lap, but I managed to keep my position"*, the Ukrainian said. P4 in PCCI is Gaidai's best result for this season: *"speaking about driving, this is my best race this year. I am glad that I was able to leave behind Gianluca Giraudi and Enrico Fulgenzi. I am pleased with the race result"*.

The Spa race was valid only for the Carrera Cup Italia classification. It was an obligatory event for the Carrera Cup France drivers but gave no points for the french series. The wet race was a comparison test for the competitors of the two series and the french proved to be stronger on the wet of a circuit considered the most technical in modern F1 calendar. Three french drivers and New Zealander Van der Drift were ahead of fastest Italian, Stefano Colombo.

Race results: 1. Steven Palette 15 laps in 45'50"225 - 137,5 km/h; 2. Chris Van der Drift +6"893; 3. Mathieu Jaminet +10"396; 4. Vincent Beltoise +11"482; 5. Stefano Colombo +15"637; 6. Riccardo Agostini +18"361; 7. Robin Hansson +22"709; 8. Nicholas Mac Bride +23"231; 9. Mattia Drudi +24"217; 10. Nick Foster +25"902; 11. Oleksandr Gaidai +31"425; 12. Gian Luca Giraudi +32"912;

Porsche Carrera Cup Italia and France take a summer break after the Spa event. Tsunami RT will be back in action for the 5th PCCF round at Magny Cours on August 28-30th. Next round for the Italian PCC is two weeks later (September 11-13th), at Vallelunga circuit of Rome.

Tsunami RT duo at Spa for the 24 Hours support race. Ledogar joined only Free Practice 1 to get 20 precious points valid for the PCCI title.

Alex Gaidai was 12th in the busy Spa grid.

Gaidai controlled Giraudi throughout the race but for a small mistake had to defend his position strongly in the very last lap.

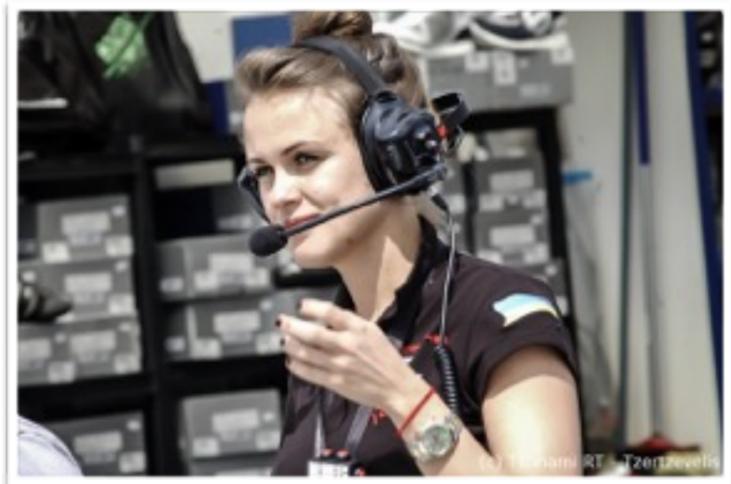
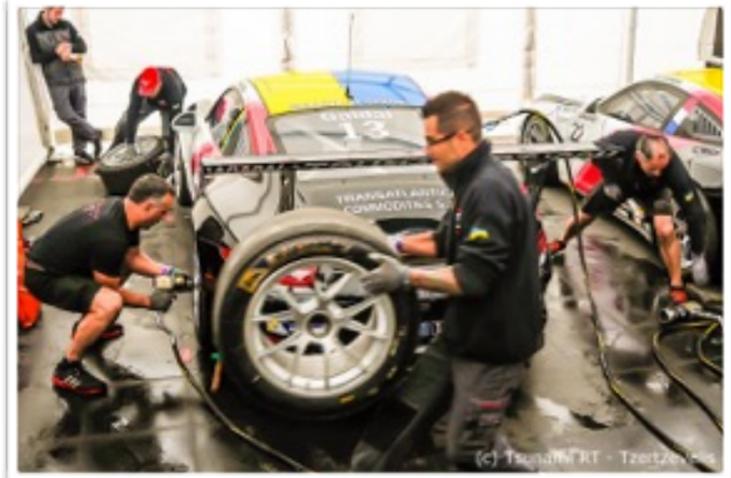
PCCI 2015 STANDINGS AFTER SPA

Drivers: 1. Agostini 126 points; 2. Ledogar 96; 3. Giraudi 83; 4. Drudi 70; 5. Colombo 55; 6. De Amicis 48; 7. Gaidai 46; 7.; 8. Fontana 35, 9. Fulgenzi 34

Teams: 1. Antonelli Motorsport (C.P Padova) 101; 2. Tsunami RT 76; 3. Antonelli (C. P. Torino) 63; 4. Dinamic Motorsport 51; 5. LEM Racing 40, 6. Ebimotors 31



Race Photo Gallery



The Carrera Cup drivers at Spa 2015 next to the Porsche 919, winner of this year's 24 Hours of Le Mans. Tsunami RT star Come Ledger is in the group but left for Hungary right after (photo: Alexis Goure)

Alex Gaidai and Irina Kolomeitseva talking to Kevin Este, competitor in the 24 hour race, precious coach and good friend of the Ukrainian couple.

The first lap of the Carrera Cup race from the famous Eau Rouge corner (photo: Alexis Goure)

Hard work in the Tsunami RT tent during Thursday for the free practice. Mechanics were rewarded by Ledogar's fastest lap in FP1.

Tsunami RT principal Irina Kolomeitseva in a good mood. Irina is Alex Gaidai's wife and his racing manager as well.

"I had to try hard in the last lap to keep Gianluca Giraudi behind", said a delighted Gaidai right after the 45' wet race at Spa.