



Media Release # 06.2018

7 May 2018

Porsche Carrera Cup France, Races 1 & 2, Spa-Francorchamps

Rovera makes history at Spa

Tsunami RT driver and 2017 Carrera Cup Italia champion did a great start in his Carrera Cup France debut at Spa: Alessio convincingly won the first race of the season and finished third in the second - run almost entirely behind the safety car - and is the provisional leader of the PCCF standings.

Tsunami RT continues rewriting Carrera Cup series history. In 2015, the Ukrainian team recruited French Carrera Cup 2014 champion Côme Ledogar in the Carrera Cup Italia and since then has become the dominating force in the series. Ledogar became the first non-Italian PCCI champion in 2016 and this year Tsunami RT does it the other way around, bringing Alessio Rovera in the French Carrera Cup with great aspirations to become champion. These aspirations have been verified in the first racing weekend of the 2018 season at Spa-Francorchamps, where the two Carrera Cup France / Benelux GT3 Cup races were supporting the first FIA WEC weekend of the 2018/2019 Super Season.

Only five days after his victory at Imola - first weekend of the Italian Carrera Cup series - Alessio challenged the French and Benelux drivers in the qualifying sessions for the two races of the Spa weekend. Rovera was qualified 3rd for race 1 behind Julien Andlauer and Turk Ayhacan Guven, because of heavy traffic and a small mistake on track. The Italian was qualified 2nd for race 2 behind Dutch Xavier Maasen without taking any risks. But he received his first point as the pole setter among PCCF drivers.

Race 1

The race started in delay because of Pietro Fittipaldi's shocking accident on the Eau Rouge during the WEC qualifying. Alessio looked as calm and smiling as ever in the

box before the start but probably he was very motivated inside. So, all his energy exploded in the very first metres before La Source corner, where the Italian took the lead with a great and clean move from the right side of the track. Rovera stayed in front throughout the race and towards the end he demonstrated all his defensive prowess against the attacks from Andlauer to celebrate his maiden win in the Carrera Cup France.

#112 Alessio Rovera: *"It was a very good race but difficult. I did a great start like never before in my career and in the first laps the car was very fast. After the safety car, I 'collected' something on my front right wheel so I struggled on the left corners after that. It's been a great start of the season".*

Race 2

This was a really weird race and not much fun for the thousands of spectators waiting for the start of the 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps race - the first in the 2018 FIA WEC calendar. All in all, the Carrera Cup France drivers were free to fight for only 7 of the 30 minutes, because of the prolonged stay of the safety car in the track. Alessio Rovera had lost two positions at the start and didn't have the time to challenge his rivals but in the end he managed to take back one place. The classification was based on the penultimate lap standings, so Rovera stepped for a second time on the Spa podium - in 3rd place this time.

#112 Alessio Rovera: *"this was not a race, it was only two useful laps. I pushed as I could in the last lap to overtake to second but we had a contact. Probably he didn't see me but it was last lap in anyway".*

What's next for the Tsunami RT - Centro Porsche Padova? Next weekend 11-13 May we go to Paul Ricard for the second round of the Porsche Carrera Cup Italia with our three drivers in the entry list: PCCI standings leader Tommaso Mosca, gentleman Alex De Giacomo and Alessio Rovera as well.

The following weekend 19-21 May we travel to Netherlands for the second round of the French Porsche Carrera Cup at the classic Zandvoort racetrack. The Porsche racing programme is included in the festive event "Jumbo Racing Days", with Max Verstappen in guest star role in his Red Bull F1 car.

You can see the final classifications of the Spa-Francorchamps races and the provisional PCCF standings in the following link:

<https://www.porsche.com/france/sportsandevents/motorsport/customerracing/porshecups/porshecarreracupfrance/spa/>

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