

News

Barba-Ceccato bring back Porsche to victory, Bizzarri-Rizzoli dominate GTS, Ayari new leader

27.08.2011

Álvaro Barba and Andrea Ceccato took their second win of the season with the Autorlando Porsche in a lively and closely-fought first race at the Red Bull Ring, in a hot and stormy afternoon, which also saw the rain on and off. They preceded the EdilCris Ferrari 458 of Miguel Ramos-Matteo Cressoni and the JMB Racing Ferrari 458 of Soheil Ayari and his new team-mate Joel Camathias. The Frenchman, despite a heavy handicap (30") resulting from his double win in Brands Hatch, finished on the podium and is the new leader in the standings, benefitting from the "zero points" day of Moncini-Montermini (Villorba Ferrari) and Frezza-López (Vittoria Ferrari) who had arrived in Austria as points leaders.

In GTS, Stefano Bizzarri and Andrea Rizzoli (AF Corse Ferrari) finally took their maiden win, after having collected four second spots, beating the Villois Aston Martin of Lancieri-Malucelli and the Kessel Ferrari of Caccia-Mantovani.

The race had an unlucky (local) hero, as Philipp Peter, who posted the pole, and led with authority the first part of the race received a drive-through for having being pushed on the grid. The cause, a faulting ignition system, meant the car received a second drive-through, as it had to be pushed again after driver change. The start had also seen Moncini, completely on the inside, touching and sending Gattuso (who was in first row with the Kessel Ferrari GT3) into a spin, with the Villorba car having to retire.

Peter led first part of the race ahead of Camathias, followed by a very lively group which included Bizzarri, Lopez, Ramos, Barba, Talkanitsa, Lancieri, Puglisi and Gené. Little by little, it was Barba emerging and taking the lead when Peter stopped to serve his drive-through. The Spaniard had always Camathias on his back, with the Swiss taking the lead in lap 16, shortly before the driver change, and then got challenged by a charging Peter.

After the driver change, Ceccato had not many difficulties controlling first Broniszewski, then Cressoni when the Pole served his second drive-through. While Frezza retired with a blocked gearbox, Ayari emerged to take final third. Fourth was Rangoni, ahead of GTS-winner Rizzoli, then Peter, Talkanitsa, the Aston of Malucelli and the Kessel of Caccia, who survived a suicide attack by the Mercedes of De Marco to salvage third spot in GTS.



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