

## Joy for Italy as conditions get the better of local boats

21 November 2015, Dubai – The fifth round of the UIM XCAT Powerboat Word Series was packed with elation and despair with the Italian team, Videx, eventually emerging as the race winners on Saturday.

Joakim Kumlin and Alfredo Amato outlasted a field that diminished at a rapid rate as half of the 14 teams didn't make it to the finish line thanks to the massive waves and rough conditions.

Fellow Italian team T-Bone Station (Giovanni Carpitella and Luca Fendi) finished second with Team Abu Dhabi (Rashed Al Tayer and Faleh Al Mansoori) overcoming initial problems and overtaking a heartbroken Swecat team (Erik Stark and Mikael Bengtsson), who broke down on the final lap, for third spot.

Overall Series leaders and defending champions XDubai, who started the race in Pole Position, succumbed to a gear casing fault in the sixth lap of the race, meaning they could not continue. Not only did that mean disappointment for Arif Al Zaffain and Nadir Bin Hendi in front of a home crowd, but also that the Series remains up for grabs with the final race of the season coming up in Abu Dhabi next weekend.

Team Abu Dhabi are now just one point behind XDubai going into that race.

Meanwhile, Saturday's drama also saw the Six team of Tomaso Polli and Matteo Nicolini taking an underwater dive while leading the race on lap nine but still managing to keep the engines running and making it to the penultimate lap.

That meant they could still claim 12 all-important championship points, which keeps them in third spot overall. Had they avoided the dip and held their lead to win the race, the Italians would now have been leading the Series heading into the final race.

But the day belonged to Videx in the end and Kumlin was thrilled with the victory.

“It was a really tough race. We started very well from the beginning and then Fazza had a problem, Abu Dhabi had a problem and we just kept on going,” explained Kumlin.

“After they dived we had a chance to take boat Six and we were leading the race right after that.”

It was far from smooth sailing from there, however, as the Videx boat’s engine cowling came loose in the closing laps. Had that come off and the engine taken in water, it could have spelled the end of their chase for the race win – the first for an Italian team in two and a half years of XCAT racing.

“We felt it on the last lap so I was really very stressed about it because I felt the boat was going really slowly and really badly,” explained Kumlin. “I was just holding thumbs that it was going to be ok.

“I don’t know what to say. I’m so, so happy about it. Dubai is a really good place to win.”

T-Bone Station’s Fendi was equally thrilled with second spot after a hair-raising start to the race.

“It was more than exciting. I was a little bit scared too,” he admitted. “I have to say, it was really rough and our boat is the shortest so we were sometimes going inside the waves.

“I said ‘I don’t know if we can finish’ so we slowed down a bit to save the boat because it was really rough. I don’t think we would have made it if we had pushed to the limit for 16 laps. And that tactic paid off because those that were really pushing broke the engines or the boat or something. It was our decision to slow down.

“These were the worst possible conditions for our boat but Giovanni is so good at managing this.”

XCAT action now moves to Abu Dhabi for the final, deciding race of the 2015 UIM XCAT World Series from 25-27 November.

For more information and full results, log on to: [www.xcatracing.com](http://www.xcatracing.com)

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**Note to editors:**

**About the UIM XCAT World Powerboat Series:**

XCAT, short for extreme catamaran, is one of the most challenging and extreme forms of powerboat racing in the world with the largest international contingent and greatest number of teams competing at spectacular locations across the globe.

The XCAT World Series has experienced phenomenal growth in the last two years and 2015 has seen ever further expansion with seven races set to take place in four different countries – including the exciting new venues of Australia and Portugal.

The XCAT World Series stands well apart from other offshore powerboat racing events thanks to its unrelenting desire to reinvent and enhance the sport, delivering a unique, all-encompassing experience for host cities, spectators and the teams involved.

**UIM XCAT World Series Facts and Figures**

- The boats can reach top speeds of around 200km/hour at their fastest
- They are constructed using advanced carbon fibre technology and have two engines
- Boats are inspected by an official from the UIM (the world governing body for powerboating) before the races to ensure they comply with stringent safety standards
- There are two people in the cockpit during the races – one is the driver and one the throttleman
- Communication between the two is vital – otherwise it could result in flipping the boat
- There is an escape hatch at the bottom of the boat so that if it does flip, the pilots are able to escape
- There are usually between 12 and 15 boats competing in each race which makes it very tricky for the boats travelling behind the front-runners as they have to deal with the spray and waves

- Each lap of an XCAT race course is 3.2 nautical miles with boats completing a minimum of 10 laps and a maximum of 16 in any given race
- The WPPA (organisers and promoters of the Series) have created and developed a unique containerised system in order to be able to transport the competing boats and other equipment in the most efficient manner. This new system, referred to as 'Cat in a box' enables the entire Series race set-up including hospitality facilities and a race village, as well as all the boats, to be transported globally within the confines of standard shipping containers
- Safety is a top priority for the WPPA and the XCAT safety crew are always on hand at each race providing top-notch safety and rescue services
- If an accident should occur during the races, they are on the scene as soon as possible to conduct the rescue and ensure all pilots are safe

**For more information: Karien Jonckheere, WPPA Media Officer,  
Email: [karien@thewppa.com](mailto:karien@thewppa.com) Ph: +27 76 0282057 or +971 50 8711959**

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