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CHOPPY WATER

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Press Release:



Formula Windsurfing Grand Prix Portimao 2007: Costa Hoevel attacks Steve Allen

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The third day of the Formula Windsurfing Grand Prix Portimao brought again great Formula Racing action to the beach of Alvor. Today the wind was a little bit lighter with 10 to 18 knots. Together with the bright sunshine this enabled the racers to enjoy a perfect competition day. Another three races were run by the race director Claudio Alessandrello from Italy.

Today the Argentinean Gonzalo Costa Hoevel (ARG-3, F2, Neil Pryde) launched an attack on the leader Steven Allen (AUS-0, Tabou, Gaastra) from Australia. And the World Champion showed some weaknesses: With two victories Gonzalo Costa Hoevel was able to shorten the distance in the ranking list. Steve Allen had to accept a second and even a third place. But the hot shot from Argentina was unlucky. In one of the three races he was forced to retire due to an equipment failure. This opened the door for another bullet of Steve Allen with which he re-established his domination in the result list. After the third day and 10 races sailed Steve Allen is leading with 9,00 points in front of Gonzalo Costa Hoevel with 14,00 points.

Fabio Melo (BRA-74, Starboard, Gaastra) from Brasil can continue to dream of his first podium finish at a major international Formula Windsurfing Event. After some weaknesses yesterday he improved his performance from race to race today. In the final race of the day he was even able to beat the World Champion Steve Allen and scored a second place. A total of 27,00 points grants him the third place.

Three racers remained with ambitions for a podium finish on Fabio Melas heels: The Italian Youngster Alberto Menegatti (ITA-456, F2, North Sails) is the best European in the strong fleet. With a solid performance and a total of 34,00 points he is currently fourth. With Wilhelm Schurmann (BRA-999, Starboard, Neil Pryde) another racer from south America presents a great performance and is currently fifth with 35,00 points. Hubert Mokrzycki (POL-25, Starboard, Gaastra) follows close behind with 38,00 points on the sixth place.

For tomorrow the forecasts predict again stronger wind of 20 knots and more. Three more races are planned. The Skippers Meeting is set for 12:00 with the first possible start at 13:00. The spectators at Alvor beach can again expect a great Formula Windsurfing show. The Formula Windsurfing Grand Prix Portimao will last until Saturday, May 5th.

The official website of the series with more information is www.euro-cup.org. The events are also covered on www.formulawindsurfing.org and www.internationalwindsurfing.com. Besides the reports and the results you will also find a live ticker on www.euro-cup.org. So check out the internet!

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