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CHOPPY WATER

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Press Release:

Steve Allen confirms his triumph at the Formula Windsurfing Grand Prix Portimao 2007

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The fourth day was the day of the first decisions at the Formula Windsurfing Grand Prix Portimao. And the conditions couldn't have been better! 12 to 22 knots of side-offshore wind flattened the sea in the bay of Alvor and provided perfect racing conditions for the formula racers. Another three races were run so that the local organizer "Clube Overpower" and the town hall of Portimao can proudly present a total of not less than 13 races in 4 days. Today the three races brought three different winners.

The first race of the day seemed to be a replay of yesterday. Gonzalo Costa Hoevel (ARG-3, F2, Neil Pryde) presented a perfect performance and dominated in front of his biggest opponent the Formula Windsurfing World Champion Steve Allen (AUS-0, Tabou, Gaastra) from Australia. The Brasil hotshot Fabio Melo (BRA-74, Starboard, Gaastra) confirmed his ambitions for the podium with third place. Janis Preiss (LAT-23, F2, North Sails) from Latvia scored his best result in the regatta and achieved an excellent fourth place in front of the Italian youngster Alberto Menegatti (ITA-456, F2, North Sails).

But in the next race Steve Allen was again able to strike back. This time he had Fabio Melo and Alberto Menegatti on his heels. The Dutch Youngster Dennis Little (NED-13, F2, Maui Sails) finally found his form and scored a fourth leaving only the fifth place for Gonzalo Costa Hoevel from Argentina.

In the final race of the day Dennis Little was able to improve his performance even further and scored his first victory in the regatta. Steve Allen underlined his outstanding performance with a second place while Fabio Mela scored another third. Wilhelm Schurmann (BRA-999, Starboard, Neil Pryde), the second strong racer from Brasil confirmed the excellent level of Formula Racing in South America with a strong fourth place in front of Hubert Mokrzycki (POL-25, Starboard, Gaastra) from Poland.

One day before the final day and with 13 of 15 races sailed the first decisions took place at the Formula Windsurfing Grand Prix Portimao: With the second place in the final race of the day Steve Allen confirmed his overall victory in the event. Even if he would not compete in any of the races tomorrow none of the other racers will be able to beat him in the result list. Gonzalo Costa Hoevel has to be careful in the final races tomorrow: As he has already two bad discards due to equipment failure he can only afford one more mistake. Otherwise he might drop down far in the rankings. But if he

finishes in the way he did before, he should have a good chance to maintain his second place. Fabio Mela cannot drop below his third place but he will raise the pressure on Gonzalo Costa Hoevel to provoke mistakes to take the second place. Alberto Menegatti are currently fighting for the fourth place with the option to move up to a podium finish if Gonzalo Costa Hoevel runs into trouble. So they will also raise the pressure on the Argentinean which will make him the “rabbit” on the final day.

For the final day tomorrow a maximum of two races is possible. According to the forecasts we can await lighter wind again. The Skippers Meeting is set for 10:00 with the first possible start at 11:00. The last possible start is 16:00 and the prize giving will take place at 18:00.

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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