

Beat: Sports

## **NASCAR WHELEN EURO SERIES-ERCOLI WINS OVER LONGIN END LIETZ**

### **TIGHT FINISH IN ELITE 2 RACE 1**

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**USPA NEWS** - First NASCAR career win in the first race with his new team. This is what Gianmarco Ercoli (#9 Double T by DAV Racing Chevrolet SS) accomplished today at the end of a tight battle with Stienes Longin ( #11 PK Carsport Chevrolet SS) that ended only under the checkered flag.

"Very good race today, with lots of overtakes and great battles on track," Ercoli said. "At the end we had to work really hard in every corner to win. It's great to win immediately. We have to work a lot, but this is the best way to begin."

Ercoli started from the pole, but he had to surrender early to Longin, who made two splendid moves in less than two laps to take the lead. Longin's lead lasted until lap 10, when the son of Bert Longin made a mistake, went wide and was overtaken by Ercoli, who then successfully managed to close all the doors until the end, when the two were separated by a mere 3/10ths of a second.

Philipp Lietz ( #67 GDL Racing Ford Mustang) won a spectacular battle with Thomas Ferrando (#37 Knauf Racing Team Ford Mustang) for third place, while 20-year-old rookie Nicki Petersen (#44 GDL Racing Ford Mustang) completed the top-5. Poleman Florian Renauer (#5 Dexwet Renauer Team) was involved in a contact with Martin Van Hove (#24 PK Carsport Chevrolet SS) during a battle for third in the early stages that resulted in a drivethrough for the Belgian and in retirement for the Austrian.

Football legend Santiago Canizares (#4 Efficaciter Team Racing) made his NASCAR debut among his fans in Valencia, posting a solid 17th place finish.

Runner-up Stienes Longin was the Rookie Cup leader ahead of Nicki Petersen, who finished fifth, and Guillaume Deflandre, who ended up 10th. Erick De Doncker (#98 Motorsport 98 Ford Mustang) won the Legend Trophy classification in front of Leonard Vernet (#2 TFT Banco Santander Chevrolet SS) and Didier Bec (#8 RDV Compétition Ford Mustang).

The Lady Cup is led by Carole Perrin (#54 CAAL Racing Chevrolet SS) who finished ELITE 2 race in the eleventh position and took advantage on Francesca Linossi's (#99 GDL Racing Dodge Challenger) retirement, due to an off track excursion. Erika Monforte (#88 Euro Kart Racing Chevrolet Camaro) is currently second in this classification and rookie Brazilian Gabriela Arantes Prado (#21 Record News TV Racing)

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