

GAS GAS

ENDURO TEAM

The GAS GAS rider was second in the E3 on the two days of the Enduro de Sitges

Christophe Nambotin and GAS GAS fly high

The duet formed by French rider Christophe Nambotin and GAS GAS continue to surprise at the start of the present Enduro World Championship. On the third round of the calendar, held last weekend in Sitges, Barcelona, Nambotin was second in the E3 class on each of the two days, with only Championship leader Samuli Aro in front, and before a wide list of great riders, in a season which was expected to be a learning step into the Senior class. Knowing his potential and that they are in the reference times, Nambotin and GAS GAS aim at staying in the top places in their class.

The World Championship was coming to Sitges after two completely opposite events. The first round in Sweden was held on snow and with very low temperatures, while the second, in Portugal, took place on mud. That is why the Spanish event was expected to be a return to normality. Sand, dust and entertainment were equally mixed in the three stages, one of which on the Sitges beach, and all with spring temperatures that caused abundant public to come to the event.

Nambotin, the only rider who has managed to beat the leader this season, was aware of his potential after winning the second day in Portugal and grabbing the provisional championship lead during the first day. He started cautiously, waiting to see what the stages were like. From the start he was among the best and he slowly started to push, climbing positions to the second place in his class and sixth overall.

On the second day, the gaps were much closer. His composure and courage allowed him to face Aro and keep his closest rivals behind. In a direct fight between the Finn and the GAS GAS man, the leader's experience left Nambotin little over 10 seconds behind, with Marko Tarkkala from Finland and Stefan Merriman two and four seconds behind the GAS GAS rider.

At the end of the event, the rider said: *"I am very happy with this second place, which is giving me much more confidence and also rewards the work of my team, who I must thank for the trust they have set on me."* Nambotin, last year's Junior runner-up, expects to be able to finish the season fighting among the top riders and to achieve some wins: *"I wasn't expecting to be here this early, but now we are aiming at everything and we will try and make the most of our rivals' mistakes."* After the Sitges event he is third in the E3 World Championship, 30 points behind the leader but a mere 2 points behind the second-place man.

Less fortunate was Nicolas Deparrois in E2. He felt that he is not totally coupled to his GAS GAS, because he joined the team shortly before the start of the championship and is still working to adapt his bike to his riding style. He was fourteenth on both days and he scored some good times in some stages, but he was not able to keep his regularity. Several falls dropped him back in the classification and he is now twelfth in the championship. The next round of the Enduro World Championship will take place in Kwidzyn, Poland, on 14 and 15 June.

For further information: GAS GAS Prensa - www.jas.es - Tel. +34.93.885.22.56

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