



From April, 6th to 11th, 2010 - Marseille

www.matchracefrance.com / www.worldmatchracingtour.com

1st STAGE OF MATCH RACING TOUR 2010

Press communication n°9 – Saturday, 10th of April 2010

Forza Italia

Quarter finals of Match Race France were held this afternoon in the Southern bay, with a W 5-8 knots light wind. Two Italians got qualified for semi-finals. Francesco Bruni and Paolo Cian succeeded to eliminate favourites Torvar Mirsky and Adam Minoprio. British Ben Ainslie stays in the competition after his victory against Frenchman Philippe Presti. The only Frenchman staying is Matthieu Richard. Nantes resident won against the local one, Sébastien Col, with a score of 2 matches against 1. Tomorrow Mistral is announced in the morning before the wind turns East in the afternoon. Semifinals and final will be run close to Escale Borély.

World n°1 Adam Minoprio had kept a good memory of Marseilles. In 2009, he had surprised everybody winning Match Race France. But the New-Zealander will not pass the quarter finals this time. He has been eliminated this afternoon by Italian Paolo Cian. *"I would have preferred to make a better start of the season"* confesses Adam Minoprio, *"but this the way it is. Conditions were difficult. The wind was coming and going. We hope to have more success in Germany for the next stage of World Tour"*. The other surprise of the day came from another Italian: Francesco Bruni. Azzura Team skipper succeeded to beat Torvar Mirsky, in spite of the fact that the young Australian – world n°2 – had finished first of the Round Robin. But Bruni started much better many times and trapped Mirsky in three on four duels they run.

"Italians presence in semifinals does not surprise me" comments Philippe Presti. *"I know them quite well as I have worked in the Team Luna Rossa for four years, and I know Italians are very good in a light weather. This is what they have 300 days a year."* Philippe Presti lost against British Ben Ainslie. Everything was over at the start of the last match. *"We were sure they were above the line. But it was a mistake from my part."* Last duel had given them an incredible opportunity with rear wind. Their J80 had succeeded to pass Ainslie's boat, stopped in a real bubble of wind. *"A hold-up match"* says Philippe Presti. Good loser, he congratulated his opponent when he arrived in Pointe Rouge. *"We must be honest : they are really better than us"* says Presti.

Fratricidal duel

Eventually the unique Frenchman that stays is Matthieu Richard. After having given a defeat to Col, he won three victories in a fratricidal duel. *"In the second match we let it go on the downwind leg"* says Sébastien Col. *"Matthieu came back casually and it got us down."* All4one skipper recognizes his mistake : he did not keep in touch with his opponent. Matthieu Richard is eventually the unique chance of a French victory at Match Race France. Nantes resident knows that the first stage of World Tour is very important. In 2008 he stood out in

Marseilles before ending world vice-champion. Tomorrow Mistral should start at the beginning of the morning before the wind turns East. First warning signal is at 9:00. If the wind allows it, marks will be dropped very close to Escale Borély. Today the audience has seen regattas, that were very close. Slam Race has also been a beautiful success. It gave the opportunity to some famous people – among whom Joel Cantona or Myriam Lamarre – to sail with the best world match racers.

They said it

Marc Bouvet, in charge of keel-boat department for the French Sailing Federation. « Match race is an excellent training for all kind of sailing practices. It increases the management of rules, agressivity on water, « touching sailing ». You must control the speed of the boat, look behind and manage all the handlings.»

Dounia Coesens, aka Johanna Marci in « Plus Belle la Vie », who sailed with Philippe Presti during Slam Race, partner's regatta. « It was my very first time sailing. They let me steer. When you know nothing about sailing, you can't imagine that handlings are so difficult. »

Redaction : Delphine Nougairède

>>>> Match Race France

For the 8th consecutive year, the Marseille Yachting Club Pointe Rouge organizes international-level competitions of Match Racing. It has been two years since the Match Race France has entered the prestigious circuit of the World Match Racing Tour.

This year again, 12 of the biggest skippers in the world will compete in the harbour of Marseille to win the first stage of the 2010 World Championship. <http://www.wmrt.com/>

The 2010 World Match Racing Tour is made of 10 stages around the world, the 1st one being in France, from April, 6th to 11th.

New in 2010! Match Race France will host the public in the Escale Borély Entertainment Village... Matches will be broadcast on giant screens, with comments in live and activities for all the family.

All informations on Match Race France are available on the website:

<http://www.matchracefrance.com/>

Dates : Match Race France du 6 au 11 avril 2010
Lieu : Yachting Club Pointe Rouge – Escale Borely – Marseille 8ème
Niveau : Epreuve internationale –Championnat du Monde - Meilleurs skippers mondiaux

Retrouvez toutes les infos sur www.matchracefrance.com

