



## SOUTH RACING CAN-AM MAVERICK X3 TEAM WINS AFRIQUIA MERZOUGA RALLY

Abril 26, 2018



- Bruno Varela and Gustavo Gugelmin pilot Can-Am Maverick X3 X rs Turbo R side-by-side vehicle to victory in five-day African desert endurance race
- Can-Am Maverick X3 platform continues to impress in grueling conditions, earning two podiums in Morocco

**VALCOURT, QUEBEC, CANADA, April 26, 2018** – The South Racing / Can-Am team of Bruno Varela and Gustavo Gugelmin won the grueling, five-day Afriquia Merzouga Rally in a Can-Am Maverick X3 X rs Turbo R side-by-side vehicle. In dominating fashion, the South Racing / Can-Am team, won four of the five race stages, and also the prologue, placing two teams on the overall class podium in Morocco, Africa.

"The ingenious Can-Am Maverick X3 side-by-side vehicle is the performance leader in the industry and continues to outshine the competition in the world's most demanding desert conditions," said Olivier Camus, Can-Am global marketing director. "Racers from around the globe are having great success with the Can-Am Maverick X3 platform, proving its dominant role in the market for sport-driving enthusiasts who seek out challenges for both man and machine."

The ninth Afriquia Merzouga Rally, a Dakar series event, featured 32 side-by-side competitors and required all entries to compete in a 5 km prologue (time qualifier) followed by five longer stages. Team South Racing / Can-Am pilot Casey Currie earned the fastest qualifier by posting the best time through dunes course, grabbing the highly coveted No. 1 starting spot for Stage 1.

Ruben Faria (South Racing / Can-Am) won the first stage in his Can-Am Maverick X3 X rs Turbo R side-by-side vehicle, while teammate Bruno Varela took second. Currie, who finished a respectable fourth place in his first official stage action, took the overall lead after his convincing Stage 2 victory, winning by more than 18 minutes. Currie and the rest of the South Racing / Can-Am drivers utilized the Maverick X3 X rs Turbo R side-by-side's precision-tuned suspension, turbocharged Rotax power and 72-in. factory width to conquer the more than 60 miles of treacherous sand dunes.

Stage 3, the Marathon stage, is the most difficult stage because racers must first finish the course and then, without support from their team, sleep in the dunes, before Stage 4. The South Racing / Can-Am team proved ready for the task, as they swept the stage podium on their way to going a perfect 4-for-4 after four Merzouga Rally events. Faria won the stage and took the overall lead.

Varela, whose credentials include the Brazilian SxS championship and victor of the TGR Rally Dos Sertões (Brazil's Dakar), finished in the runner-up spot in Stage 4 to grab the overall class lead. With one stage left, Varela, the son of 2018 Dakar Rally winner and Can-Am Maverick X3 racer Reinaldo Varela, knew a top finish in the final-stage victory would mean victory. Team navigator and co-pilot Gustavo Gugelmin, also brought great experience to the table, having helped Varela's father win the Dakar Rally this January in South America. With a great track record in desert endurance racing and the formidable Can-Am Maverick X3 X rs Turbo R vehicle on their side, Varela was in the driver's seat to put another huge racing crown in his family's trophy case.

Varela won the final stage by 23 seconds to cap his first Merzouga Rally victory and first for Can-Am. In the end, the Brazilian champ's time won by more than an hour and half. The Can-Am Maverick X3 X rs Turbo R took the top spot, as well as the third-place. A consistent Annett Fischer and co-driver Filipe Palmeiro, who took fourth in Stage 5, also earned podium glory in a race where roughly a third of all side-by-side class competitors had to drop out.

For more information about Can-Am off-road products, the family of championship-winning Can-Am Maverick X3 side-by-side vehicles and the Can-Am racing program, visit [CanAmOffRoad.com](http://CanAmOffRoad.com).

*Professional racers photographed on closed courses. Do not attempt.*

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