

MICHELIN BATTLES TRACK CONDITIONS AS MARQUEZ IS VICTORIOUS

Michelin saw its range of MotoGP™ tyres pushed to the extreme this weekend to find the best grip from the asphalt at the Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli in Italy as Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team) took victory at the Gran Premio Octo di San Marino e della Riviera di Rimini and strengthen his hold on the championship lead.

All weekend the riders had been searching for the optimum performance from the MICHELIN Power Slick tyres, as recent treatments to the surface of the 4,226m Italian circuit meant that the track was slippery all weekend and made grip a premium from the front and rear rubber. The Michelin technicians worked tirelessly all weekend to assist their respective riders and give expert advice and assistance to combat the difficult conditions

Today's race was held in warm conditions as ambient temperatures reached 26°C and the track was at 39°C, this followed the theme of the weekend and with grip from the surface very low, the majority of the 22-man field went with a medium front and rear slick pairing for the 27-lap race. Pole-setter Maverick Viñales (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) took an early lead and led for the first two laps. He soon came under pressure for Fabio Quartararo (Petronas Yamaha SRT) and Marquez, which saw the Frenchman take the lead on lap three. Quartararo continued to head the field until the final lap when Marquez made a move to take first, the Yamaha man fought back, but the reigning World Champion again made a move past Quartararo, that this time proved successful and gave Marquez victory and extended his lead in the riders' championship. Quartararo's second place also gave him the position of First Independent Rider and increased his lead in the Rookie of the Year standings. Viñales came home third to complete the podium. Fourth went to local hero Valentino Rossi (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) and a huge sea of yellow greeted him as he crossed the line in front of a very partisan crowd of 96,212 fans at trackside. Franco Morbidelli (Petronas Yamaha SRT) made it four Yamahas in the top-five as he took fifth, with Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati Team) coming home in sixth. Pol Espargaro (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) was seventh after his impressive qualifying yesterday which saw him take second on the grid and KTM's best dry grid position since entering MotoGP. Eighth was Joan Mir (Team SUZUKI ECSTAR), with Jack Miller (Pramac Racing) and Danilo Petrucci (Ducati Team) finishing ninth and tenth respectively.

Michelin now travels directly to Spain for the second race in the current back-to-back double-header, as MotorLand Aragon stages the first European Grand Prix of the MotoGP era in the name of the French company, with the Gran Premio Michelin® de Aragon scheduled to take place on Sunday 22nd September.

This weekend saw the first staging of a double-header in the FIM Enel MotoE™ World Cup, as the 18-riders on their Energica Ego Corsa machines took to the track for races on both Saturday and Sunday. Equipped with MICHELIN Slick MotoE tyres, the field completed practice sessions on Friday, ahead of the E-Pole to decide grid positions. Alex de Angelis (OCTO Pramac MotoE) took pole in his home race, with Matteo Ferrari (TRENTINO Gresini MotoE) and Xavier Simeon (Avintia Esponsorama Racing) taking second and third on the grid respectively.



Saturday's race was a lively affair, with de Angelis getting a good start and leading through the early laps, before coming under pressure from Simeon and losing the lead to the Belgian. Ferrari then moved to the front on lap-four as an exciting battle for victory ensued. After the seven-laps of close racing, Ferrari held on to take his first win of the season, with the hard-charging Hector Garzo (Tech 3 E-Racing) second and Simeon in third. Sunday's second race saw Ferrari take control in the early stages and stretch his lead at the front as a thrilling race took place for the remaining podium positions. A four-way battle for the two remaining places, behind double-winner Ferrari, produced many overtaking manoeuvres before Garzo led the group home to take second place, with Mattia Casadei (Ongetta SIC58 Squadracorse) recording his first podium finish with third. Ferrari now leads the championship standings ahead of Garzo, with Bradley Smith (One Energy Racing) in third.

The FIM Enel MotoE World Cup will next be in action at Valencia in Spain on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th November when rounds five and six respectively will conclude the series and the first sustainable energy, two-wheel, road-race title will be decided.

Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team):

“Today was a tough race, because the tyres were very consistent so you could push all the race at the maximum, so for physical condition it was tough. We had a great fight with Fabio, luckily for us we chose the medium front and that was the right one. Yesterday we used the hard front and both tyres worked in a good way, but we chose the medium because we felt it gave us a bit more. We worked very good all weekend with Clement, our Michelin Technician and we had very clear conclusions after every practice and this is the best way to start a race.”

Matteo Ferrari (TRENTINO Gresini MotoE):

“I'm really happy to win these two races because this is my home GP, so to win the first MotoE race at Misano and then to do the double is very special. During the Free Practice I managed to understand a lot about the tyres and the bike, so we were very fast. In the first race the fight was really difficult because we had good grip from the front tyre, but because of the track surface we didn't have that much from the rear. The lap-time was good though and this is fantastic for us. During Sunday's race there was a lot more grip because the track was cooler and had improved, so the feeling with the bike was better. We studied the data last night and I changed my strategy, because on Saturday some of the others were very fast, so I pushed hard in the first three-laps and carried on to do so to the end of the race. Thanks to my team, my sponsors, Michelin and my fans, because this is my home GP and a double win is incredible”

Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:

“This has been a very demanding weekend for all concerned. We knew that track conditions were difficult after the test here last month, but we hoped that with more rubber on them during a race weekend from all classes they would improve, unfortunately they didn't and it made it difficult for all concerned. I want to thank all of the Michelin Technicians for their dedication and hard-work this weekend, it was not easy and they all did a great job. I also want to thank the riders for pushing as hard as they did and putting their faith in the Michelin rubber despite the difficult surface. We will take a lot of information from this weekend and that will help in making the decision on what compounds we bring next year. We now head to Aragon in Spain and the Michelin Grand Prix; this is a track that needs special attention and we will have a range of tyres that will be very competitive and will give us the opportunity to push for fast lap times.



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“MotoE produced two very exciting races and again showed how racing from sustainable energy is a very positive and enjoyable form of competition. The tyres worked very well considering the conditions, especially in the second race on Sunday morning when the track temperature was a bit lower. We are pleased to be associated with this series and look forward to the final races at Valencia, the title is still wide open and we will give the riders tyres that will suit the circuit and the bikes so they can push to the limit.”



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