

MICHELIN BREAKS ALL RECORDS AS IT POWERS MARQUEZ TO THE TITLE IN THAILAND

Michelin saw the 2019 MotoGP™ World Championship wrapped up in a winning way at the Chang International Circuit as Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team) took a thrilling last corner victory on the final lap to secure the title during today's PTT Thailand Grand Prix with the French tyre company seeing every record broken during this weekend's action.

Starting from second on the grid, Marquez settled into a rhythm in second place behind pole-setter Fabio Quartararo (Petronas Yamaha SRT), as the Yamaha rider - who set a new outright record around the 4,554m Buriram circuit in yesterday's qualifying - got the holeshot and led the race with confidence, belying his rookie status. The pair pushed hard at the front, showing confidence in their MICHELIN Power Slick tyres, as they traded record fastest laps, with Marquez coming out on top by logging the quickest circulation and a new race record lap on the 11th time around. As the race drew to an exciting climax, Marquez made his move on the last lap, but the Frenchman battled back and grabbed first heading to the final corner, but the reigning champion, saw an opportunity and used the grip of his Michelin tyres to the full to squeeze every bit of performance as the two headed around the concluding turn, to take a thrilling victory and secure the world title. Quartararo took an impressive second and the position of First Independent Rider, strengthening his lead in that championship and also at the head of the Rookie standings.

This weekend at Buriram has again seen a mixture of weather as warm, sunny conditions greeted the field on day one, leading to fast lap-times in the two sessions, as the riders tried all the different MICHELIN Power Slick compounds to decide on the best configurations for race day. This year saw the first time that the MICHELIN Power Rain tyres were used at the Thai circuit, as heavy rain on Saturday morning meant Free Practice 3 was wet. This gave all the riders the opportunity to use all the compounds of rain tyres to assess the performance on the Buriram asphalt. Fortunately, the track dried completely in the afternoon to witness Quartararo's record-breaking feat in Qualifying, as himself, Marquez and Maverick Viñales (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) all went under the existing outright record. Race-day again witnessed dry and sunny conditions, but cloudy skies kept track temperatures at 48°C, making it perfect conditions for the grip and consistency created by the rear, soft MICHELIN Power Slick. This led to all riders choosing this option, its performance was well proven though, as the overall race duration record was broken by almost 20-seconds. This was not the last piece of record-breaking this weekend as the Event Best Maximum Speed was also beaten, as Danilo Petrucci (Ducati Team) clocked 332.3Km/h in Free Practice 2. Filling the final podium place was Viñales, with Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati Team) in fourth. Alex Rins (Team SUZUKI ECSTAR) was fifth, with Franco Morbidelli (Petronas Yamaha SRT) taking sixth and Joan Mir (Team SUZUKI ECSTAR) crossing the line in seventh. Valentino Rossi (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) finished eighth, Petrucci ninth and Takaaki Nakagami (LCR Honda) rounded out the top-ten.

Another big crowd of 95,352 filled the grandstands around the circuit to witness Marquez take his eighth Grand Prix title, his sixth in the MotoGP class. This was also his fourth consecutive championship - all whilst using Michelin tyres - as he joined a select band of riders that have won four premier class titles in succession throughout the history of the sport, the others being Mike Hailwood, Giacomo Agostini, Mick Doohan and Rossi. The Spaniard's title was also the 30th time the premier class has been won by a rider using Michelin tyres.



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Michelin will now briefly return to Europe before embarking on the three-week Pacific Rim tour, which begins with the Motul Grand Prix of Japan at Twin Ring Motegi in Japan on Sunday 20th October, before then heading to Australia and Malaysia respectively.

Marc Marquez – Repsol Honda Team:

“I am really happy with the race, because we won it and we also closed the championship in a champion mode! Winning the race was amazing and this was my fourth consecutive championship with Michelin, so this is fantastic and I also know this is the 30th championship of Michelin in the premier class and it’s really nice to be a part of the Michelin history. It has been an incredible season and we understand the tyres really well, we work a lot with our technician, Clement, and Piero also takes care of all the riders and understands what is needed and this is really good for the championship.”

Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:

“This has been a very impressive weekend for Michelin, we broke every single record and showed that the tyres were able to push to the very limit for the whole race, so you could say mission accomplished, but we will not rest on our laurels, because we know we can improve here and we now have a lot more data after our second race visit to Buriram. When we come back next year it will be earlier in the season and conditions will be very different, so it was good that we were able to try all the tyres this weekend to see what worked to the optimum performance. With all the data we had from last year we had a compound for the front and rear that suited everyone and performed well in these particular conditions. We will now study the data so for next year we can have a more open choice, as that is what we always aim for, but from another point-of-view it is also a positive fact that all the riders found a single solution that they were every happy with for the rear and for the front.

“Well done to Marc on his fourth title, he is an incredible competitor and has shown amazing consistency this season. On behalf of Michelin I would like to send him congratulations on his fourth consecutive title with us.”



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