

TITLE MICHELIN AND ROSSI RESPLENDENT AT ASSEN

Michelin and Valentino Rossi produced incredible MotoGP™ performances in daunting conditions as the nine-time World Champion triumphed during today's Motul TT Assen in The Netherlands.

Starting from fourth on the grid, Rossi (Movistar Yamaha MotoGP) was in the chasing pack that was led into the first corner by pole-setter Johann Zarco (Monster Yamaha Tech 3). The Frenchman then led the race for 11-laps despite the attentions of Rossi, Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team) and Danilo Petrucci (OCTO Pramac Racing). On lap-12 Rossi made his move, with a pass that was to prove important despite the large amount of work he still had to do in the closing stages.

This weekend witnessed a mix of weather from very warm and sunny on Friday, to heavy rain on Saturday. Today's race started with overcast and cool conditions and the excitement was heightened as rain started to fall over the 4,452m circuit on lap-18 causing the white flags to be waved to allow the riders to come into the pits and change to wet tyres if they wanted to. Some runners chose to come in to change, but the front pack stayed out and produced some exciting battles as the race drew to a close, with Cal Crutchlow (LCR Honda) and Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati Team) joining the action at the front as the rain continued to fall. Despite the diminished conditions the MICHELIN Power Slicks still gave impressive grip and the lap-times hardly dropped, as the combatants constantly changed places. The closing laps saw Rossi and Petrucci go head-to-head for the victory with both leading at various stages, before Rossi made a decisive move as he lapped a slower rider, and although Petrucci pushed to the line, Rossi took the victory by just 0.063 seconds. Petrucci had the reward of finishing as First Independent Rider and taking his second podium of the season.

Behind the front two a four-way fight was going on for the final podium place, with Marquez just taking the spoils on the line despite the valiant efforts of Crutchlow. Dovizioso was a close fifth, a position that saw him move to the top of the riders' classification, as previous leader Maverick Viñales (Movistar Yamaha MotoGP) crashed as he pushed hard through the pack to catch the leaders. The action continued throughout the field as Jack Miller (EG 0,0 Marc VDS) made his way from thirteenth on the grid to sixth. Karel Abraham (Pull&Bear Aspar Team) recorded his best result of the season so far to take seventh, narrowly beating Loris Baz (Avintia Reale Racing) and Andrea Iannone (Team SUZUKI ECSTAR), as the pair took eighth and ninth respectively. Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing Team Gresini) rounded out the top-ten, with his brother Pol Espargaro (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) following him home, a result that meant six different manufacturers featured in the first eleven-places, again highlighting the competitiveness of MotoGP. The full range of Michelin tyres were used throughout the weekend, with five of the six MICHELIN Power Slicks being chosen in various configurations for today's race, again underlining the choice that is available to all riders to give them the best performance window for their riding style and machine.



Today's event was watched at trackside by 105,000 spectators, which made it the most attended race of the year so far and all those watching were treated to a fantastic spectacle which produced the fifth different winner of this already intriguing season and leaves the championship wide open as the top-four riders are covered by just 11 points. Michelin and the MotoGP field will now make a trans-European journey this coming week as the championship heads to Germany and the ninth round of the season. The race at Sachsenring on Sunday 2nd July will signal the mid-way point of the calendar and be the last event before the summer break.

Valentino Rossi – Movistar Yamaha MotoGP:

“I'm very happy because the bike and the tyres worked very well for the weekend in all the conditions. It was very tricky to make the choice, because with the medium we know we are very strong, but the conditions were not fantastic so we had to wait until the last moment. At the last moment we risked a little bit and put the hard on because we know the hard was a bit better on the Yamaha and it worked. It was a great race and I am so happy!”

Nicolas Goubert – Deputy Director, Technical Director and Supervisor of the MotoGP Programme:

“We have been pleased with the performance of the tyres here at Assen this weekend. During the wet and drying session on Saturday the wet tyres worked very well, times were considerably quicker than in similar conditions last year and we had very few crashes despite the riders reporting that the track was giving very little grip. The race today again saw most of the compounds being used in different pairings right through the field, but we did not foresee what would transpire later in the race. As the rain began to fall we would have expected lap-times to drop, but the guys at the front hardly slowed down at all. They produced some fantastic racing which was a perfect demonstration of the confidence they had in the tyres to push so hard in those tricky conditions. We are constantly trying to produce the best tyres for each track to allow the riders to give such excitement for the crowds and we will continue to that. Next week we head to Germany which will be a very tough test as the track has been resurfaced and we have no data for it, but we are sure we have the right tyres for it and we are ready for the challenge.”



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