

## **MICHELIN POWERS PEDROSA TO AN EMPHATIC VICTORY**

Michelin witnessed the third different winner in as many MotoGP™ races as local hero Dani Pedrosa (Repsol Honda Team) raced to resounding win at today's Gran Premio Red Bull de España at Jerez in Spain during round-four of the World Championship.

Pedrosa qualified on pole yesterday and the Spaniard got to the first corner in front of the pack and never looked back as he increased his lead over the 27-laps to ride away from the field and take victory. A result that also cemented his place in history as today's MotoGP race was the 3,000<sup>th</sup> motorcycle Grand Prix of all time in all classes.

The only rider to show any resistance to Pedrosa's dominance was his team-mate Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team), using the hard front and rear compound MICHELIN Power Slick tyres - in contrast to the hard front and medium rear for Pedrosa - the reigning World Champion pushed all race to close the gap on his compatriot, but as the laps counted down Marquez settled for second and the chance to close the gap in the World Championship classification. The final step on the podium went to Jorge Lorenzo (Ducati Team), a result that signalled his first top-three finish of his new Ducati career, his choice of medium front and medium rear slicks again highlighted the different choice the riders can make from the Michelin compounds available to get the best results from their respective bikes and riding styles.

First Independent Rider was the next over the line and that honour went to Johann Zarco (Monster Yamaha Tech 3), as the rookie rode a mature race to give him his best finish of the season so far. Fifth went to Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati Team), with Maverick Viñales (Movistar Yamaha MotoGP) taking the flag for sixth. Danilo Petrucci (OCTO Pramac Racing) made it three Ducatis in the top-seven places, with Jonas Folger (Monster Yamaha Tech 3) coming home in eighth. Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing Team Gresini) was ninth, with championship leader Valentino Rossi (Movistar Yamaha MotoGP) rounding out the top-ten and maintaining his title lead, but with a smaller advantage.

Today's race was held in dry and very warm conditions, the increased temperature raised the heat of the track and made the notoriously smooth Jerez surface very difficult as the asphalt offered decreased levels of adhesion. Despite this, today's race duration time was faster than last year as the latest compounds of tyres worked hard to give the riders as much grip as was available. Again, during the weekend the whole array of tyres were used throughout all the sessions, as rain on day one saw both compounds of front and rear MICHELIN Power Wets being used, while all the different slicks were put through their paces as the riders tried different combinations before settling on their choice for the race.

Michelin and most of the MotoGP field will now stay at Jerez for an official test on the Monday, where a comparison evaluation between the current front tyre and the prototype stiffer construction will be conducted.

The next race on the calendar for MotoGP is the home race for Michelin as the championship moves to France and the historic Le Mans circuit for round-five on Sunday 21st May.



**Tim Walpole** – [tim.walpole@motocom.co.uk](mailto:tim.walpole@motocom.co.uk) – Phone: +44.7976.397.265

**Alessandro Barlozzi** – [alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com](mailto:alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com) – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93

### **Dani Pedrosa – Repsol Honda Team:**

“Today I am really happy with the race and it’s been an amazing weekend. The tyres worked well today in the race, even though we had some special conditions with a lot less grip from the track, so it was more difficult to manage the tyres, especially the front where the grip was not as good as in the practice, so we had to choose the hard option. I could manage my tyres and first place, even when Marc was pushing from behind, so I am pleased with the result. It has been a good day for us because our rivals were a bit off the pace and we could get back some points in the championship.”

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

“It has been quite a challenging day today as the condition of the track made grip levels very difficult for all concerned. The surface is always quite slippery, but as the temperatures rise the adhesion reduces further and this creates issues that the riders didn’t have to contend with on the other days this weekend. The guys out there really had to manage their tyres to get the best performance, and it is something that we will have to look at for the next time we visit Jerez if the track temperature is very high again. This weekend had some unusual weather as we had rain on Friday for the first session, this did give us a good opportunity to evaluate our wet tyres and they worked very well, with good performance from both compounds. Then during the other free practice and qualifying sessions all versions of the slicks were tried to find the optimum performance, and again during today’s race we saw different options used by the riders to match the best compound with their bikes and styles.

“We now have a very important test here at Jerez on Monday, where we will work towards making a decision on the direction we will take with the front tyre construction for the rest of the season. We are all looking forward to the test and the next race which will see us back home at Le Mans.”



**Tim Walpole** – [tim.walpole@motocom.co.uk](mailto:tim.walpole@motocom.co.uk) – Phone: +44.7976.397.265

**Alessandro Barlozzi** – [alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com](mailto:alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com) – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93