

Circuit Notes

by Peter Hubbard

MotoGP™ Race Recap: Young Marquez makes his mark and makes history

AUSTIN, Texas (April, 21, 2013) – In what amounted to a “statement” weekend for young Repsol Honda rider Marc Marquez, the 20-year old Spanish MotoGP rookie not only claimed his very first pole position, but also his very first MotoGP race Sunday, April 21, putting the rest of the field on notice that despite his youth, he *will* be a force to be reckoned during for the remainder of the 2013 racing season. In doing so, he also became the youngest driver ever to win a Moto GP race—in just his second start—at the first international motorcycle Grand Prix held at the new Circuit of The Americas™ sports and entertainment complex.

Marquez takes the record, set 21 years ago before he was born, from former American MotoGP rider and two-time series champion Freddie Spencer whose first win came at the Belgian MotoGP race in Spa Francorchamps when he was 20 years, 196 days old. Marquez wins at age 20 and 63 days.

During what seemed like an effortless race, Marquez easily piloted his No. 93 Repsol Honda across the finish line 1.5 seconds ahead of team mate Dani Pedrosa. Third place went to reigning 2012 MotoGP champion Jorge Lorenzo, riding his No. 99 Yamaha Factory Team bike, who finished 3.3 seconds behind the winner.

Although Marquez started on the pole, teammate Pedrosa, atop his No. 26 Repsol Honda ducked beneath Marquez on Turn 1 on the very first lap and led for the first half of the race. The two Hondas ran basically nose-to-tail for the first 12 laps of the race before Marquez passed Pedrosa inside Turn 7 on Lap 13, taking the lead for good. A small riding error six laps later widened the gap between the two.

After the race, Pedrosa attributed his lapses to some minor numbness in his left arm, which affected his grip and limited his ability to pilot his bike effectively through corners—especially the esses on the back side of the course.

The two Hondas were clearly superior to the rest of the field and were never seriously challenged. Fourth place finisher Cal Crutchlow, on his No. 35 Monster Yamaha Tech 3 bike, was 6.6 seconds behind at the finish, but no other rider was closer than was 12 seconds behind when the checkered flag fell. Places five through 10 went to Stephan Bradl, Valentino Rossi, Andrea Dovizioso, Alvaro Bautista, Nicky Haden and Andrea Iannone. Hayden was the fastest American rider in the field and brought his No. 69 Ducati factory team bike across the finish line.

Despite his third-place finish, Lorenzo’s 41 points give him a share of the championship lead, along with Marquez. Prior to the race Crutchlow said his team was aiming for a spot in the top six, so he expressed pleasure after the race for the 13 points his fourth-place finish will provide, boosting him to fifth in the overall points standings, with 24.

Only three of the riders failed to finish. Lukas Pesek lost control and his No. 52 Iota-Suter bike and slid off the course on Lap 14, while teammate Danilo Patrucci had mechanical problems with his No. 9 bike a lap later and retires to the pits. Texas native and fan favorite Colin Edwards suffered a similar fate on lap 11, and finished the race watching from the garage.

FINAL FINISH

Pos.	Points	Num.	Rider	Nation	Team	Bike	Mph	Time/Gap
1	25	93	Marc MARQUEZ	SPA	Repsol Honda Team	Honda	98.7	43'42.123
2	20	26	Dani PEDROSA	SPA	Repsol Honda Team	Honda	98.6	+1.534
3	16	99	Jorge LORENZO	SPA	Yamaha Factory Racing	Yamaha	98.5	+3.381
4	13	35	Cal CRUTCHLOW	GBR	Monster Yamaha Tech 3	Yamaha	98.5	+6.616

FINAL FINISH (continued)

Pos.	Points	Num.	Rider	Nation	Team	Bike	Mph	Time/Gap
5	11	6	Stefan BRADL	GER	LCR Honda MotoGP	Honda	98.2	+12.674
6	10	46	Valentino ROSSI	ITA	Yamaha Factory Racing	Yamaha	96.9	+16.615
7	9	4	A. DOVIZIOSO	ITA	Ducati Team	Ducati	97.8	+22.374
8	8	19	Alvaro BAUTISTA	SPA	GO&FUN Honda Gresini	Honda	97.7	+22.854
9	7	69	Nicky HAYDEN	USA	Ducati Team	Ducati	97.5	+33.773
10	6	29	Andrea IANNONE	ITA	Energy T.I. Pramac Racing	Ducati	97.2	+42.112
11	5	41	A. ESPARGARO	SPA	Power Electronics Aspar	ART	96.9	+48.837
12	4	38	Bradley SMITH	GBR	Monster Yamaha Tech 3	Yamaha	96.8	+50.705
13	3	11	Ben SPIES	USA	Ignite Pramac Racing	Ducati	96.0	+1'14.132
14	2	14	Randy DE PUNIET	FRA	Power Electronics Aspar	ART	95.9	+1'15.651
15	1	68	Y. HERNANDEZ	COL	Paul Bird Motorsport	ART	95.8	+1'19.591
16		70	Michael LAVERTY	GBR	Paul Bird Motorsport	PBM	96.0	+1'34.391
17		7	Hiroshi AOYAMA	JPN	Avintia Blusens	FTR	95.1	+1'39.823
18		8	Hector BARBERA	SPA	Avintia Blusens	FTR	95.1	+1'39.952
19		71	Claudio CORTI	ITA	NGM Mobile Forward Racing	Kawasaki	94.8	+1'46.773
20		67	Bryan STARING	AUS	GO&FUN Honda Gresini	Honda	94.7	+1'48.084
21		79	Blake YOUNG	USA	Attack Performance Racing	APR	93.9	1 Lap

NOTES:

- Spanish riders Lorenzo, Pedrosa and Marquez not only took all three positions in the race, but all three also started on the front row of the starting grid for just the second time ever in MotoGP competition. The only other occasion was at the Mugello race last year.
- The third-place finish by Jorge Lorenzo marks an important milestone for the reigning 2012 MotoGP champion. It's his 100th podium appearance.
- This marks the 14th consecutive race in which Dani Pedrosa has placed his No. 26 Repsol Honda on the front row of the starting grid.
- By securing the fourth spot on the starting grid this weekend, Cal Crutchlow has qualified in the top five for nine consecutive MotoGP races.
- Call him "Mr. Consistency;" this marks the fourth race in a row that German rider Stefan Bradl has qualified his No. 6 Honda in the No. 5 slot on the grid.
- Circuit of the Americas became the 35th different race track on which veteran rider and seven-time MotoGP champion Valentino Rossi has competed during his illustrious career.

QUOTES:

MARQUEZ: "I have to give some of the credit for today's victory to our race team and our choice of tires. All weekend we worked to find ones that warmed up quickly and gave us the most grip, and I think we were successful with that. I guess we have to say that in part, we have to give our tire choice some of the credit for today's win.

"Also, I think by staying behind my teammate during the first part of the race, and watching how his rear tire responded on various parts of the track helped me see what line worked best. That gave me confidence to push a little harder at the end of the race and trust that we had the right tires and the best strategy for winning on this track.

"Now I'm looking forward to the next race at Jerez de la Frontera, in Andalucia Spain, where I'll be riding in front of all my fans."



PEDROSA: "It's really great to have finished second here today. While I had some problems with the handling of my bike today, I think the biggest challenge was some numbness in my shoulder that I began to feel as the race progressed. That affected my ability to steer the bike properly, especially through the chicanes and the corners on the back side of the track. After a while the feeling came back, so that was good.

"I think, perhaps, part of the reason for that may also be the very curvy layout of this new Circuit of The Americas track, with all its turns. It's especially challenging for some of the smaller riders such as myself when we have to keep turning these rather heavy MotoGP bikes. In the end, I was only 1.5 seconds slower than my teammate, so overall I'm pretty pleased with today's race."

LORENZO: "Of course I would have preferred that my 100th podium would have been marked by a win, but in spite of that I'm really happy to be here. All week it was pretty clear that the Hondas had a distinct advantage on this track given the times they were posting during practice and qualifying. So we had pretty much resigned ourselves to the fact our Yamaha bikes weren't going to be able to finish any higher than third today. So I'm pleased that we were able to do that, and finished only three seconds behind the winner. That's really pretty good. So in the end, I have to say we're pretty pleased with that result here today. But it's a long season, and we race on all kinds of different tracks. So I think we still have a good chance of retaining the championship. But we'll see. One thing's for sure. It promises to be a very interesting and a very competitive season."

About Circuit of The Americas

Circuit of The Americas is a world-class destination for premium sports and entertainment. It is the first purpose-built Grand Prix facility in the United States designed for any and all classes of racing, from motor power to human power, and is home to the FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX while also hosting MotoGP™, V8 Supercars™, GRAND-AM Road Racing™, American Le Mans and the FIA World Endurance Championships. The Circuit of The Americas' master plan features a variety of permanent structures designed for business, education, entertainment and race use. Its signature element is a 3.4-mile circuit track. Other support buildings include the Austin360 Amphitheater, an expansive outdoor live music space; an iconic 251-foot, 25-story tower with observation deck; an events and conference center; a banquet hall; and a state-of-the-art medical facility. For more information and downloadable video, audio and photos, visit: www.CircuitofTheAmericas.com, www.Austin360Amphitheater.com or the Circuit's dedicated FTP site, media.circuitoftheamericas.com.

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