

IMAGOLIVE

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Oggetto: TEAM KAWASAKI GPKR - PR 0106 FRENCH ELITE CHAMPIONSHIP - ROUND 1 SOMMIERES



125 FRENCH ELITE MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP 2006 FIRST ROUND IN SOMMIERES (Gard)

PERFECT DAY FOR THE POURCEL BROTHERS

Event: French Elite Championship, round 1 of 6
 Location : Sommières (Gard)
 Weather: sun and cold wind

The opening round of the 125 French Elite Championship was successful this weekend for the new Kawasaki GPKR Team. Christophe and Sébastien Pourcel won the three heats and are easily leading the series, two weeks after a strong performance in the International MX of Pernes.

With a 2/1/1 result, Christophe got the overall win and led the French championship followed by his older brother Sébastien. Starting each race in the top ten, Chris came second behind Seb in the first heat and then won the next races. Seb scored 1/2/2; in the second moto he had to slow down (he was leading and was passed by Chris and Nicolas Aubin) due to some troubles with his knee brace, and in the last race he completely missed the start. Coming back from 25th to second behind Chris, he ended the day with a strong ride and is second in the standings. Third member of the team, Gregory Aranda crashed in the first two races (he lost several laps to repair the bike in the first race, and then damaged the brake pedal and the radiator in the second one) but got a strong 7th place in the last moto.

The team will be testing this week in South of France on hard soils, and will race next weekend in Valence. Then they will go back to their Belgian workshop, and will race the Belgian championship in Mons one-week prior the opening GP in Zolder (Belgium).

Christophe Pourcel. « *I got worst start than in Pernes, but it's not a problem with the bike. I had some troubles to find the good grip, and the bike rear so I lost a few seconds. Anyway I was among the top ten riders each time, and then did consistent races. It was windy and we had to take care on some jumps. I'm of course really happy to start the season with two wins, Pernes and now Sommières. We'll stay this week in South of France, we have some more testing on the suspensions; we found the good settings for sandy tracks, we must now improve on the hard tracks and that will be our program this week.* »

Sébastien Pourcel. « *The first race was perfect for me, but in the second one I had some troubles with my knee brace and I had to slow down while leading the race. My brother and Aubin passed me, then I came back second. I enjoyed riding the bike, it was my first MX2 race as I used the 450 in Pernes.*

I've no more pain to my noose (Seb got a stone on his noose in the last moto of Pernes, and retired) and I think that I will race again with the 450 in Valence ; it's good to practice sometimes with this bike, we have eleven races in a row now and we must have some fun while practicing. »



Race one: **1.S.Pourcel (Kawasaki GPKR) ; 2.C.Pourcel (Kawasaki GPKR) ;** 3.Aubin ; 4.Tarroux (Kawasaki) ; 5.Renet (Honda) ; 6.Izoird (Honda) ; 7.Annelot (Honda) ; 8.Demartis (Honda) ; 9.Roux (Yamaha) ; 10.Sandouly (Yamaha).....**33.Aranda (Kawasaki GPKR) ;** etc....

Race two: **1.C.Pourcel ; 2.S.Pourcel ;** 3.Aubin ; 4.Renet ; 5.Tarroux ; 6.Boog (Yamaha) ; 7.Frossard (KTM); 8.Demartis ; 9.Izoird ; 10.Annelot ; etc.... Abandon : **Aranda**

Race three: **1.C.Pourcel ; 2.S.Pourcel ;** 3.Aubin ; 4.Richier (Kawasaki) ; 5.Izoird ; 6.Tarroux ; **7.Aranda ;** 8.Boog ; 9.Renet ; 10.Annelot ; etc....

Championship standings (after round 1) : **1.C.Pourcel 72 ; 2.S.Pourcel 69 ;** 3.Aubin 60 ; 4.Tarroux, 49 ; 5.Renet, 46 ; 6.Izoird, 43 ; 7.Boog, 38 ; 8.Annelot, 36 ; 9.Demartis, 36 ; 10.Sandouly, 28.....**17.Aranda, 14 ;** etc....

Next races : Romagné (9/4) ; Gaillac (1/5), Saint Jean d'Angely (14/5), Iffendic (25/6), Lacapelle (13/8)

