

IMAGOLIVE

Da: "Press Youthstream" <d.rizzi@youthstream.org>
A: <presscredentials@youthstream.org>
Data invio: domenica 27 maggio 2007 16.17
Oggetto: BILLY MACKENZIE AND CHRISTOPHE POURCEL BACK TO VICTORY IN JAPAN



BILLY MACKENZIE AND CHRISTOPHE POURCEL BACK TO VICTORY IN JAPAN

SUGO, 27 May 2007- In a **warm and windy** day, Sugo's **Sportsland** played host to the four of this sixth FIM Motocross Grand Prix of 2007.

24000 spectators gathered in the Japanese venue for the only Oriental appearance of the series was won by **Billy Mackenzie** in the MX1 class, and **Christophe Pourcel** in the MX2.



Part of the Japanese paddock here in Sugo

MX1

Kawasaki Racing Europe's **Billy Mackenzie** won both the previous two MX2 editions her

Sugo, where he clinched his first MX1 victory today, becoming the only British rider to have won a MX1 GP. A very consistent **Mike Brown** of CAS Honda finally made the most of his holeshots, and was second on the podium after he won the final moto. Yamaha Motocross' **Jo Coppins** completed the podium in third place, ahead of KTM Red Bull's **David Philippaerts**. **Steve Ramon** of Suzuki ended the top five, ahead of **Yoshitaka Atsuta**, the fastest home rider.

MX1 GRAND PRIX RACE 1

Mike Brown took his ordinary holeshot, but **Billy Mackenzie** got rid of him by the end of opening lap. Brown and **Josh Coppins** fought for second, giving Billy Mac the chance to fly with the lead. Once Coppins passed Brown, the American was under attack by a determined **David Philippaerts**, who passed and got close to the Kiwi's tail.

Coppins opened up a gap from Philippaerts, trying to save himself from a double KTM attack. **Jonathan Barragan** joined the group and passed team mate Philippaerts; he then gave chase to Coppins for second, and passed with two laps to go. Coppins brought the bike home with two laps behind Barragan and winner Mackenzie.

Philippaerts rode to a consistent fourth, and four seconds later Brown made it to the chequered flag in fifth place.

Steve Ramon rode an impressive moto after he was hit at the start; being at the very bottom of the group, he rode a breathtaking heat to finish ninth.

MX1 GRAND PRIX RACE 2

Mike Brown stormed into the first corner, followed by **Mackenzie** and **Coppins**; the trio swapped places, with the Scottish taking the lead and starting an escape from the hungry rivals. **Kevin Dycker** reached Brown in lap two, to pass him and chase Mac for the win.

Dropping down -and then retiring- because of technical problems, De Dycker gave second place to Brown, who found himself at the lead of the race when Mackenzie crashed.

The first moto winner was quick to get back to the bike, and rejoined the race in second place ahead of Coppins.

The Kiwi rode strong to another third place, behind Mackenzie and Brown -who won his first MX1 moto. **Steve Ramon** put in a good start, and climbed up to fourth place, ahead of **Yoshitaka Atsuta**.

Kevin Strijbos made it to the top ten, even if he crashed out in the early stages, as **Jonathan Barragan** scored no points. He crashed and was brought straight to the medical centre, but the conditions were good.



In Japan, Mackenzie has a special ritual he does before every race: listening to the same music, and wear as much yellow as he

MX2

It seems it is time to talk about the battle Cairoli-Pourcel again, as GPKR's **Christophe Pourcel** won his first GP of the season today; **Tony Cairoli** of Yamaha De Carli came very close to sixth consecutive strike, but finished second, ahead of KTM Red Bull's **Tommy Searle**. His mate **Tyla Rattray** was tied in points with Tommy, but finished fourth, as Molson Kawasaki's **Gareth Swanepoel** completed the top five.



Christophe Pourcel wants to reach Cairoli on the top of the points standings soon

MX2 GRAND PRIX RACE 1

Christophe Pourcel was the quickest to enter turn one, followed by **Tommy Searle**, **Tyla Rattray** and **Nicolas Aubin**.

The defending Champion pulled away with the lead, as Tony Cairoli had to make up ground sixth place. In the meantime Tyla Rattray moved past Searle and reduced the gap from le Pourcel lap by lap.

The two rivals came together, and Rattray sneaked into an open door to earn the lead of the : Pourcel took a couple of breaths and attacked the South African with success, but Tyla moved quickly to the front.

Cairoli was pushing too hard and crashed; when he rejoined the race in third place, he decide settle down for that position.

The win depended on the fight between Rattray and Pourcel, with the Frenchman moving up t front and winning the moto.

Rattray was second, as his team mate Searle brought the bike home with fourth. **Ga Swanepoel** completed the top five, ahead of **Pascal Leuret**.

MX2 GRAND PRIX RACE 2

This time **Cairoli** had the greatest start, but runner up **Tyla Rattray** was very close in the couple of laps. The two rivals **passed each other four times in one lap**, before Cairoli grabbe lead and run away with it.

Rattray kept Cairoli on his sights for a while, then crashed and handed second to **Pourcel**. Frenchman was pacing himself to save the eventual second place, but crashed out and was forc enter the pitlane to fix a damaged handle bar.

When he was back to the race, **Tommy Searle** and **Gareth Swanepoel** were second and third, ahead of him. Pourcel did not give up the chase, and once he passed the South African, he put i flying laps to catch Searle in the very last corners before the flag.

Pourcel earned his first GP victory of the season with second behind Cairoli; Searle finished ahead of Swanepoel, while Tyla Rattray completed the top five.

Pascal Leuret was just outside, in sixth place, but he was involved in a first corner crash.



The podium of the MX2 class

IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS STANDINGS

Joshua Coppins is comfortably sat on the **MX1** Championship lead, with 63 points more than runner up Kevin Strijbos, who had a bad day in Sugo and finished 11th overall. Steve Ramon is third, but he is closing in on team mate Strijbos. Sebastien Pourcel and David Philippaerts round off the top five, as Ken De Dycker dropped down to sixth. Mike Brown entered the top ten, where he is now eighth, while GP winner Billy Mac is currently in eleventh place.

In the **MX2** class **Antonio Cairoli** is keeping Christophe Pourcel behind in second, with a 64 point gap. Tyla Rattray is still third, but there are now ten points between him and the defending Champion. Tommy Searle passed Pascal Leuret for fourth, while the Frenchman dropped down to the bottom of the top five. Gareth Swanepoel jumped from eighth to sixth, ahead of Ken Gundersen and Nicolas Aubin.

CAIROLI AND YAMAHA AGREED ABOUT THREE MORE YEARS TOGETHER

Antonio Cairoli and Yamaha announced today a new **three year deal**; Tony will stay in Claudio Carli's team for **2008**, racing in the **MX2** class of the FIM Motocross World Championship. After that, then he will decide what to do in the remaining two years.



From left to right: Laurens Klein Koerkamp, Racing Manager of Yamaha Motor Europe; Antonio Cairoli and Team Manager Claudio De Carli

WHAT'S NEXT

There is one free week now, to get over the jet-lag of this Japanese journey. The next round will be held in **St. Jean D'Angely on June 10.**

The Japanese Grand Prix will be **broadcast delayed** on:

- ⌘ **AB MOTEURS:** Sunday May 27; MX1 Race 1 at 13:00 and Race 2 at 15:00; MX2 Race 1 at 12:00 and Race 2 at 14:00 CET
- ⌘ **SPORT ITALIA:** Sunday May 27; MX2 Race 1 at 18:00 and Race 2 at 19:00; Monday May 28, MX1 Race 1 at 14:00
- ⌘ **VRT:** Sunday May 27; MX1 Race 1 and 2, N/A (check <http://www.vrt.be>)
- ⌘ **EUROSPORT WORLD:** Monday May 28; MX2 class, N/A (check <http://www.eurosport.com>)
- ⌘ **AMERICA ONE:** second Tuesday after the GP MX2 Race2 and MX1 Race2, N/A (check <http://www.americaone.com>)
- ⌘ **GAORA:** MX2 Race1 and Race2, MX1 Race1 and Race2, N/A (check <http://www.gaora.co.jp>)

Information and results on <http://www.motocrossMX1.com>, the official website of the FIM Motocross World Championships.

Fans worldwide can watch this and every race of the 2007 FIM Motocross & Supermoto World Championships live and on-demand exclusively on The Moto Channel on MediaZone (moto.MediaZone.com). MediaZone is a leading global online broadcaster specialized in sports, entertainment and international programming.

LINKS

[FIM](#)

[Sportsland Sugo](#)

Youthstream is the company that manages the exclusive television, marketing and promotional world wide rights FIM Motocross World Championship, the FIM Motocross of Nations, the FIM SuperMoto World Championship, FIM SuperMoto of Nations, the FIM Snowcross World Championship, the UEM Motocross European Championship and the UEM SuperMoto European Championship.

