

IMAGOLIVE

Da: "mediacross" <mediacross@onlinehome.de>
 A: <mediacross@onlinehome.de>
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2006 MX2 MOTOCROSS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND FIFTH IN SUGO (Japan)

CHRISTOPHE LEADS THE WORLD !

Event : Motocross World Championship, race 5 of 15
 Location : Sugo (Japan)
 Weather : sunny

Two weeks after his first GP win in Germany, Christophe Pourcel collected in Japan the red plate, as he is now leading the World Championship by two points. Fourth of the Grand Prix Christophe confirmed his potential, while his brother Sébastien collected points in both races for the first time since Zolder.



It's the second year in a row that Sugo met a Grand Prix, and for all the Europeans the main problem was to recover from the long trip! Saturday was the worst day for most of them, as the weather was changing all day long with sun and rain, bringing a lot of humidity in the atmosphere. Hopefully it was sunny on Sunday, and the track was in perfect conditions for the event.

Christophe and Sébastien both started in the top ten of the first race, and after one lap they were four and tenth as De Reuver and Cairoli crashed while leading the race! It took some laps for Christophe to find a good rhythm in this race, and at mid-race he passed Rattray for the second place. But Mackenzie was far away and it was impossible for Christophe to join him, while Sébastien ended the race in tenth place. Chris totally missed the second start, and he was last in the first corner! He did an amazing first lap, coming back from last to ninth! Then he had again some troubles to find his lines and lost two positions, even Seb passed him. Christophe will come back strongly to the fifth place in the second part of the heat, scoring enough points to take the lead of the series. Once more Sébastien slowed down at the end, finishing in fourteenth position.

The team will now enjoyed his first weekend off since a while, and then will defend the red plate in Bulgaria, Italy and England.



Christophe Pourcel : « I'm really happy to collect the red plate, it's a bonus for the team and that's great ! In the first race my start was pretty good, but during the first laps I took a false rhythm and didn't found my lines. Then I pushed and came back second, but Mackenzie was too far to beat him. I totally missed my second start, I was last in the first corner! It took again time to find my rhythm, I didn't had good lines and took all the bumps but I ended in fifth position. Starting last I had to find my way through the pack in the first laps, and I could avoid many crashes. I didn't like this starting line and overall the result is not so bad as I'm now leading the championship. I think that it's good to have five different riders able to win the title, we'll have to do clever races, got podiums and score many points at every round.»



Sébastien Pourcel : « I was unable to recover from the trip and the jet lag, and I didn't slept friday night. Saturday I was more or less sleeping all day long, and even if I had then a better night I felt tired during both heats. I think that physically I worked well before moving to Japan, and that my main problem was the trip. Today I had the speed during the first part of each race, but then I came tired and some rivals passed me, I was unable to react. We'll talk with the team when we'll be back in the plane, I want to see what I have to do to recover before the next GP. I know that I'm able to score great results, it's now up to me to find the solutions.»



Roger Pourcel : « After the GP win in Germany it's another dream that came true for us with this red plate, we work hard in the team and that's a great award for us. After the first race I was expecting another podium for Christophe but he totally missed his start. For me the most important is that he did a strong and clever race, he did a great job. He was probably too long to get the good rhythm, but he is really thin and when he is in the middle of the pack he doesn't like so much to battle with the other guys during the first laps. But as he is physically fit he overtook many rivals later in the race. It's amazing to have the red plate as it's only the fifth Grand Prix in the young history of the team, maybe we'll keep this plate only two weeks but be sure that we will do our best to keep it as long as possible. Until now Sébastien was not too lucky, we solved the technical problems and now it's up to him to get great results. I think that he must train as we want and not as he want, we give him advices but he is not listening us. If he didn't change his training I think that it will be difficult for him to get the result he expect, it's the third year that he raced the GP's and now he must be regularly on the podium. »

Patrick Geladé : « We are a lucky team, we have an amazing rider, great mechanics, a strong support from the factory and a really good atmospher in our team. We took the red plate here in Japan, in

front of many Kawasaki representatives, what could we better expect? I'm really pleased with the way that the Kawasaki staff welcomes us, people were so kind with us, they were listening us and giving the answers we were looking for. It's a real boost for the team, they gave us many informations and told us what will be the next evolutions of the bike. I'm optimistic for the future, I'm sure that the factory will be behind us in this battle for the World title."

First heat : 1. Mackenzie (GBR, Yamaha), the 22 laps in 40'27''246 ; 2.C.Pourcel (Kawasaki GPKR) + 12''249 ; 3.De Reuver (NED, KTM) + 22''606 ; 4.Cairolì (ITA, Yamaha) + 26''790; 5.Philippaerts (ITA, KTM) + 28''677 ; 6.Ratray (RSA, KTM) + 38''296 ; 7.Swanepoel (RSA, Kawasaki) + 41''888 ; 8.Searle (GBR, Kawasaki) + 52''492 ; 9.Gundersen (NOR, Yamaha) + 54''515 ; 10.S.Pourcel (Kawasaki GPKR) + 55''594 ; etc....

Second heat : 1.Cairolì, the 21 laps in 40'01''774 ; 2.De Reuver + 5''927 ; 3.Mackenzie + 10''002 ; 4.Swanepoel + 13''618 ; 5.C.Pourcel + 33''536 ; 6.Nunn (GBR, KTM) + 36''838 ; 7.Searle + 41''246 ; 8.Leok (EST, Yamaha) + 43''951 ; 9.Gonçaves (POR, KTM) + 44''995 ; 10.Gundersen + 54''586....14.S.Pourcel + 1'42''911 ; etc...

Grand Prix : 1.Mackenzie, 45 pts ; 2.Cairolì, 43 ; 3.De Reuver, 42 ; 4.C.Pourcel, 38 ; 5.Swanepoel, 32....11.S.Pourcel, 18 ; etc....

World Championship standings after five rounds : 1.C.Pourcel, 196 ; 2.De Reuver, 194 ; 3.Ratray, 196 ; 4.Cairolì, 162 ; 5.Mackenzie, 150 ; 6.Philippaerts, 120 ; 7.Nunn, 119 ; 8.Gundersen, 111 ; 9.Chiodi (ITA, Yamaha), 111 ; 10.Searle, 105.....13.S.Pourcel, 70 ; etc...

Next event : Grand Prix of Bulgaria (Sevlievo) June 3-4

