



PRESS OFFICE

## MOTORCYCLE RACING ACTIVITY REPORT

### Pirelli racing: exceptional results in all the disciplines and championships

*Milan, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006 – Another great weekend of racing for Pirelli*

Last weekend was full of events for the motorcycle enthusiasts, and Pirelli once again can begin the week toasting to its riders.

The **World Motocross Championship** has reached the 5<sup>th</sup> Round moving overseas to Japan in the track of Sugo, 400Km far from Tokyo. In this round again the rider of the day is Stefan Everts, who took with Pirelli the 7<sup>th</sup> moto-win in a row and is leading the Championship with a 61 point gap over his nearest pursuer.

Again in Japan a "double" for him, running straight toward his tenth World Title. The Belgian rider is not alone in trying to give to Pirelli its 46<sup>th</sup> World Title, and so also in Japan Pirelli could count on the great performance of also other riders, achieving the great result of occupying all the three steps of the podium of the MX1. Thanks to the new product line for the off-road, the Pirelli Scorpion MX, Pirelli riders can always count on the right product, and the result is 4 Pirelli riders in the top 5 positions of the MX1.

Another World Championship was having place this weekend in Spain, in Albacete. It was the **Endurance World Championship**, where Pirelli finished the 8h race in second position with the team Yamaha Austria.

A good result, but even better if looking the complete standings. Pirelli placed 5 riders in the first 10 positions, both with 16,5 and 17 inches slick tyres. The quality of the Pirelli tyres and the trust level of the riders thanks also to the job they can see in the SBK WC gives to Pirelli a quite impressive grid share, fitting the 47% of the riders.

In the overall standings after the third race three of the top 5 positions are for Pirelli riders.

In the mean time in US the **AMA Road Racing Championship** was taking place in the sunny California, at Sonoma, on the circuit Infineon Raceway. Usually sunny, but this time it was a bad weather weekend, with the rain breaking up the plans. On Saturday Pirelli scored a 4<sup>th</sup> place with May in the Extreme class, but the main racing day, Sunday, was damaged by the rain. Pirelli was going to face the Supersport class with two riders in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> position, but at the third lap the red flag interrupted the race, never re-joined, thus nothing actually happened.

In the same hours in California also the **AMA Motocross Championship** was starting, with the first round in Sacramento. On the racetrack of Hangtown the Pirelli Scorpion MX Mid Soft drove Jeff Dement in the top ten positions in the main class, while in the Motocross Lites series the two riders of Yamaha of Troy finished both on the podium.

This weekend was also the first appointment for the **Canadian Championship**, with an amazing and thrilling round in Shannonville, Ontario.

Seven classes for a Championship that as the WSBK decided to switch to Pirelli and to the control tyre rule in order to have a fair treatment for the whole grids and great show in the tracks. All this happened, and even if the snow appeared to make it harder, the service offered to the riders by Pirelli was as always perfect, although the changing conditions caused a high number of tyre changes.

The same three riders who took the podium of the SBK class (Racing with Pirelli Diablo Superbike 17"), took also the Supersport PRO podium (Pirelli Dragon Supercorsa PRO, so DOT tyres), with their Kawasaki, Suzuki and Yamaha bikes.

Despite the non-so-good weather the riders could go faster than last season, expressing a good impression of how Pirelli is facing this challenge.

The bikes used in the classes are different, and race with different tyres. For example the "Supersport Thunder" class is for two cylinder bikes with air cooling system like the Buell who won this first race. Then there's a "SVCup" to be raced with the Suzuki 650 naked bike, and a "Women Cup".

Last but not least, the **Italian national Championship (CIV)** offered the second race of the season and the second outstanding result for Pirelli.

All the first 6 riders of the SBK class were fitting Pirelli, proving once more the exceptional level of performance of the Diablo Superbike.

In the Supersport Roccoli and Vizziello took also this time the first and second position, but swapping, so that they're now leading the Championship with the same 45 points.

A second position came also in the third class, the Superstock, with Scassa and his MV Agusta.

Both the road and off road tyres achieved top results in the worldwide races. From the slick tyre Diablo Superbike to the knobby Scorpion MX, from the sun of the Italian Mugello to the snow in Canada.

Once again Pirelli on Monday morning can proudly say: "We sell what we race, we race what we sell."