

Gino Rea on the podium in 3rd for the WSBK Superstock 600 opener at Valencia
05-04-2009

Gino Rea on his Ten Kate Honda finished 3rd today in the closely fought first race of the WSBK Superstock 600 season at Valencia. Starting third on the grid Gino battled with, Lonbois and Bussolotti for 2nd, 3rd and 4th whilst Petrucci pulled a significant gap at the front for Trasimeno Yamaha. At half distance Gino was third behind Lonbois but was then passed by Bussolotti on lap seven. Tight racing followed with Gino passing Bussolotti on the final lap of the 11 lap race to achieve his podium finish.

Thoughts from Gino are:

"It was a hard race, we still struggled with speed and rear grip. I tried to tag onto Petrucci from the beginning but didn't quite have the pace. Then Lonbois went passed down the straight and I could catch him everywhere else but didn't quite have enough pace to go back past. Then Bussolotti come passed on the straight and I had to push really hard to just stay with them. I was going to wait for the last lap to make a move on the brake on the final corner but decided to do it a lap before to see if he would pass me before the finish line, which he did so I came back at him on the brakes on the 2nd corner. I pushed hard to get a gap on him and it worked. To come out of this race with a podium is fantastic. When you know how much the other teams tested here it makes it pretty special. Last year it took me 5 races to get a podium so I'm glad to get off to a solid start. Now we know the bike a bit better we can try and improve it for Assen. I also can try and get rid of my annoying cold, it started to affect me in the latter stages of the race! I also look forward to riding the Dutch Superbike this weekend at Assen!"

Today's race results are:

1 9 Petrucci D. (ITA) Yamaha YZF R6 18'31.326 (142,711 kph) 2 55 Lonbois V. (BEL) Yamaha YZF R6 3.923 3 4 Rea G. (GBR) Honda CBR600RR 4.871 4 5 Bussolotti M. (ITA) Yamaha YZF R6 5.108 5 11 Guarnoni J. (FRA) Yamaha YZF R6 9.444 6 37 Litjens J. (NED) Yamaha YZF R6 14.817 7 89 Kerschbaumer S. (AUT) Yamaha YZF R6 16.528 8 7 Guittet B. (FRA) Honda CBR600RR 16.743 9 36 Chmielewski A. (POL) Yamaha YZF R6 16.995 10 13 Lombardi D. (ITA) Kawasaki ZX-6R 17.224 11 10 Calero N. (ESP) Kawasaki ZX-6R 35.794 12 23 Von Gunten C. (SUI) Suzuki GSX-R600 42.308 13 132 Manfrinati D. (ITA) Honda CBR600RR 47.218 14 12 Cecchini R. (ITA) Honda CBR600RR 47.449 RET 19 Morelli N. (ITA) Honda CBR600RR RET 26 Vrajitoru M. (ROU) Yamaha YZF R6 RET 81 Látr D. (CZE) Honda CBR600RR RET 47 La Marra E. (ITA) Honda CBR600RR