

Beach Doubles At Barber As Yamaha bLU cRU Sweeps The Podium In Supersport Race 2

Defending MotoAmerica Supersport Champion JD Beach made it clear at Barber Motorsports Park that he is not ready to hand the crown to his Yamaha Extended Service (Y.E.S.)/Graves/Yamaha teammate and current points leader Garrett Gerloff. JD won both of the weekend's Supersport races to shave precious points from Garrett's lead. It's the second year in a row that JD has notched the double-win at Barber.

Starting from the second row on the grid, JD got off the line well and slotted in behind equally quick starter Garrett, and the battle was on as polesitter and Wheels In Motion/Meen Yamaha rider Joe Roberts was also in the mix from the beginning.

Both JD and Garrett swapped the lead back and forth, and they also swapped fastest lap times of the race, with JD going fastest in lap 4, while Garrett eclipsed JD's time with a faster lap of his own on lap 14. The final circulation of the 21-lap race saw both riders dicing for the win, and despite having to pass lapped riders, JD nearly matched his fastest lap from earlier in the race as he took the checkered flag for his third race victory in 2016.

"My ride wasn't super-smooth today, but I did what I could," commented JD.

"It was so fun to race with Garrett, Joe, and all the guys. There was a lot of passing back and forth, which I like. It feels great getting the double-win here at Barber for the second year in a row. As for the Championship, I'm just going to go for wins because I've got nothing to lose. All the weight is on Garrett's shoulders right now since he's in the lead, so we'll see what happens."

Garrett said, "JD was riding really well, and I was doing all I could to stay with him. With a couple of laps to go, I was able to get past him, but it didn't last long with the pace he was going. It was a tough race just like yesterday was, but I'm glad to get two second-place finishes this weekend, especially against a flat tracker like JD."

The Y.E.S./Graves/Yamaha Supersport team will race again in two weeks when the MotoAmerica Championship will be at Utah Motorsports Campus in Tooele, UT, on June 23-25.

2016 MotoAmerica Supersport Standings, 6/12/16:

- 1 Garrett Gerloff – Yamaha, 230 pts
- 2 JD Beach – Yamaha, 197 pts
- 3 Valentin Debise, 168 pts
- 4 Cameron Petersen, 139 pts
- 5 Joe Roberts – Yamaha, 118 pts



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