

Road Atlanta - MotoAmerica Wraps Up with a War of Words

Story: Phillip Prichard/Photos: MSA Staff
Toni Elias scored his third MotoAmerica Motul Superbike victory of the season at Road Atlanta on Sunday and by doing so he may have kickstarted a rivalry with reigning series champion Cameron Beaubier.

The war of words started Saturday when Elias was angered by Beaubier's pass in the final corner that pushed Elias into the grass on the exit of turn 12. Yoshimura Suzuki's Elias said Saturday he had a long memory, but he didn't need it as he retaliated quickly in Sunday's second race, moving over on Beaubier on the run down

to turn 12, then touching his helmet and looking back at his new rival. The two exchanged words prior to the winner's circle celebration and that spilled over to the press conference.

As for the race itself, it was another thriller with five riders at the front early before it was whittled down to three late in the race. Elias ended up beating his Yoshimura Suzuki teammate Roger Hayden by just .308 of a second with Beaubier and his Monster Energy/Yamalube/Yamaha Factory R1 just another .256 of a second behind in third.

M4 ECSTAR Suzuki's Valentin Debise won his second career MotoAmerica Supersport race at Road Atlanta, the Frenchman turning the tables on Saturday's winner Garrett Gerloff and the Monster/Yamalube/Y.E.S./Graves Yamaha. Again, Gerloff's teammate JD Beach finished third.

For the second straight day, it was M4 medAge Suzuki's Nick McFadden taking victory in the Superstock 600 class over Saturday's third-place finisher Michael Gilbert on the Team MG55 Yamaha.

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