

MotoAmerica at Barber Motorsports Park

Photos: MSA Staff

Monster Energy/Yamalube/Yamaha Factory Racing's Cameron Beaubier two-time MotoAmerica Superbike Champion led the Dunlop preseason test days at Barber Motorsports Park on Monday March 26th and Tuesday March 27th.

Beaubier led all the test sessions going into the day's final 50 minute run. Beaubier looks ready to make another run for the championship when MotoAmerica's first race on April 13-15th comes to Road Atlanta for the Suzuki Championship.

In his interview: Beaubier said. "I was stoked to be able to ride here again. Yesterday, I was a little rusty since I didn't get to race here last year (due to injury). Thanks to my team, they dialed me in and I got comfortable. I ended up fastest right there at the end, but what I'm happiest about is that I was within a tenth (of a second) on the soft race tire. It's going to be a tough year. There are a lot of fast guys... my teammate Garrett (Gerloff), Toni (Elias) and Roger (Hayden), and (Mathew) Scholtz are all riding really well right now. So now, I'm ready to go racing. My off-season has been a little bit longer than everyone else's, so I'm ready to just line up and get the elbows out. I'm excited."

Mathew Scholtz, and the #11 Yamalube/Westby Yamaha YZF-R1 was second fastest after the 2 day test.. "We were confident coming into Barber that we were going to be competitive, but the big unknown after racing in Superstock 1000 last year was how would we compare now that we're on a Superbike," Scholtz said. "Yesterday didn't start out well, and we didn't get much track time due to a few different problems. But, in the final session of the test, we got the bike straightened out, and we were able to work on setting it up for the Superbike engine, the forks, and the wheels. Our lap times weren't where we wanted to be, though. Today, we started out really well, which was a positive step for us. And that was on the older rear tire, which was what we raced on here last year. In the second and third sessions, the bike just wasn't working, unfortunately, so we didn't get any track time with the new Dunlop tire.

"In the final session, the team got things working properly, and the bike was great. With 15 minutes left in the test, we put on the softer tire and did a really quick lap time. We still have a lot of work to do with the brand-new tire, but it was good to show that we have the pace. We go to Virginia



TONY ELIAS (2017 SUPERBIKE CHAMP), PICKED UP A HITCHHIKER

(International Raceway) next week to do a test there, so we'll have some more track time to work on setting the bike up for the new tire before we go to Road Atlanta for the start of the season."

Defending MotoAmerica Motul Superbike Champion Toni Elias ended up fourth after a mechanical issue in the final session.

Georgian Ashton Yates led the Junior Cup class on his Kawasaki.

First round of the 2018 MotoAmerica Championship at Road Atlanta starts on Friday April 13th thru Sunday the 15th. Go to roadatlanta.com/motoamerica for your tks and a awesome weekend of racing and events.



CAMERON BEAUBIER



JD BEACH



MATTHEW SCHOLTZ



ROGER HAYDEN



GARRETT GERLOFF



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