

MotoAmerica Kicks Off Season at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta

By Phillip Prichard/Photos MSA Staff

Yoshimura Suzuki's Toni Elias streak of winning the first race of the season ended on Saturday in Race 1 when he finished second to Cameron Beaubier after running off track with four laps to go. Beaubier beat Elias by 2.732 seconds on Saturday. Elias won his first race of the MotoAmerica EBC Brakes Superbike Series season on Sunday at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta. He beat Westby Racing's Mathew Scholtz by 1.839 seconds under sunny skies on the final day of the Suzuki Championship.

The win, combined with his second place from Saturday, gives Elias the early lead in the EBC Brakes Superbike Championship with 45 points – four more than Saturday's winner Cameron Beaubier, who was third Sunday.

Sunday's Superbike race began with six riders running together at the front with those three – Elias, Scholtz and Beaubier – joined by Beaubier's Monster Energy/Yamalube/Yamaha Factory Racing teammate Garrett Gerloff, Attack Performance Estenson Racing's J.D. Beach and Yoshimura Suzuki's Josh Herrin.

Gerloff was the first to have issues, he eventually had to pull over to remove the fender. He would continue onward and eventually finish ninth.

Herrin, meanwhile, lacked the pace to stay with the top four with the race coming down to just three in the final laps as the trio pulled slightly clear of Beach. Scholtz ended up getting the edge on Beaubier to take second with Beach finishing just .3 of a second off the back of the defending MotoAmerica Superbike Champion. Beach finished fourth on Sunday. He finished third on Saturday after a hair raising crash early in the race.

In Supersport, Saturday's second-place

finisher Bobby Fong came back strong on Sunday and notched the race win aboard his M4 ECSTAR Suzuki. Second-place finisher P.J. Jacobsen kept Fong honest throughout the majority of the 18-lap race to record his first MotoAmerica podium result in his second race aboard his Celtic HSBK Racing Yamaha. Hayden Gillim won on Saturday.

Hudson Motorcycles – HB Racing Yamaha rider Richie Escalante finished third and dedicated the race to his grandfather after getting the sad news earlier in the day that he had passed away.

In Liqui Moly Junior Cup, Saturday's race winner Rocco Landers did the double and got the win on Sunday aboard his Landers Racing Kawasaki. Almost a carbon copy of the previous day, he got a great jump off the line from the pole position, led the 11-lap race from start to finish, and pulled a gap of nearly five seconds.

Dallas Daniels, the second-place finisher from Saturday's race, once again finished second on Sunday aboard his Quarterley Racing/On Track Development Kawasaki. Altus Motorsports rider Kevin Olmedo finished third to complete the podium.



FIGHT TO THE LINE

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#50-Bobby Fong and #69 Hayden Gilliam



HAYDEN TAKES SATUA WIN OVER FONG

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