

Yamaha bLU cRU Riders Successful at Road Atlanta Podium Finishes Throughout Saturday's Season Opener

Saturday kicked off day one of racing at Road Atlanta for the 2018 MotoAmerica AMA/FIM North American Road Racing Championship, and Monster Energy/Yamalube/Yamaha Factory Racing team rider Garrett Gerloff came out swinging with a remarkable third-place performance in his Superbike debut on the #31 YZF-R1.

Monster Energy/Yamaha Extended Service/Graves/Yamaha's JD Beach was also ready for battle, producing a winning performance in the Supersport class, while Yamaha bLU cRU riders Mathew Scholtz and Hayden Gillim joined their



HEADED INTO SSS's

factory teammates on the podium with hard-fought second-place finishes in their respective classes.

Monster Energy/Yamalube/Yamaha Factory Racing

On Friday, the Monster Energy/Yamalube/Yamaha Factory Racing Team worked to fine-tune the chassis set-up and electronics program on the R1 Superbikes ridden by Beaubier and Gerloff, which gave both riders a solid platform to begin the race weekend.

The arduous work paid off, with Beaubier landing a first-row starting position, and Gerloff a second-row position, at the end of Saturday's Superpole qualifier.

When the green flag waved for the Superbike race later in the day, Beaubier was off to a great start when he tucked the front-end of his #6 R1 in turn 10 and went down on the first lap. The Northern California native picked up his bike and fought hard to finish out the race in ninth-place, claiming valuable points toward the championship chase.

Meanwhile, Gerloff found his pace on the #31 R1, and executed a calm and collected performance to finish third in his Superbike debut.

Garrett Gerloff - #31 YZF-R1

"I was happy and disappointed with third today. You know, I'm a racer. I don't want to get third, I want to go for the win, but I'm glad I got the first-race jitters out of the way and to put my R1 on the podium in the first race feels great - I'll take it! I had a really good pace with Mathew and Tony but I did the best I could, and that's all I can ever do.

I'm looking forward to whatever comes tomorrow."

Cameron Beaubier - #6 YZF-R1

"I'm really disappointed in myself because I knew we had good pace to run up front and contend for the win. I'm frustrated because I honestly felt like I went into that corner pretty much the same as I had all weekend. I was fortunate enough to collect a couple points and finish out the race, but I'm bummed out for myself and my guys - they're working really hard. We're going to regroup and try to fight back tomorrow and get a good result."

Monster Energy/Yamaha Extended Service/Graves/Yamaha

In Saturday's MotoAmerica Supersport race, JD Beach continued his solid streak at Road Atlanta by qualifying with a pole-position start and claiming a hard-fought victory over bLU cRU rider Hayden Gillim. JD was opening a comfortable lead at the start of the race when Gillim was caught in an incident with another rider and crashed. Just a few laps later, a red flag from another incident forced the riders to regroup and start again, placing Gillim back on the grid.

Beach put his head down and made good use of the Monster Energy/Yamaha Extended Service/Graves/Yamaha Team's hard work since the Dunlop Preseason Test at Barber Motorsports Park last month, as he rode a nearly flawless race on his #95 YZF-R6 to finish ahead of



TONI ELIAS HEADED TO FINISH LINE FOR 1ST WIN OF 2018

Gillim.

JD Beach - #95 YZF-R6

"Coming off the test at Barber, it didn't go as smoothly as we would have hoped but the team and crew worked so hard and they're really dedicated, so coming into this weekend it was all fixed. It was a close race today and in the past, Road Atlanta definitely hasn't been one of my strong tracks so to come away with a win in the first race is awesome. We don't know what it's going to be like tomorrow, but it's a long year and we're ready to continue putting in the hard work."

Yamalube/Westby Racing's Mathew Scholtz made an impressive start to the 2018 season by riding his YZF-R1 into

pole-position in the Superbike class. Scholtz followed up his positive start with a second-place finish in Race 1.

Due to major mechanical issues leaving the team transporter on the side of the road in Louisiana, Josh Herrin's Attack Performance/Herrin Compound/Yamaha R1 Superbike and spares never made it to Road Atlanta. Determined to race, Josh and his team went to work on prepping his 2016 YZF-R1S street bike, which he rode to a very impressive 10th place finish.

Hayden Gillim put up a good fight against Beach in the Supersport class, posting a close second-place finish on his Rickdicious Racing YZF-R6. Tuned Racing's Braeden Ort rounded out the top-five on his YZF-R6.

Altus Motorsports/AP MotoArts team rider Jason Madama cemented his name in the MotoAmerica record books by riding his MT-07 to a second-place finish in the first-ever Twins Cup race.

It was a challenging day for Yamaha bLU cRU riders in the new Junior Cup class, where MotoAmerica is continuing to work towards finding the right limiting balance between motorcycles of different engine sizes and configurations. Nonetheless, riders in the Graves/Yamaha YZF-R3 Support Program soldiered on, receiving technical tips from team owner Chuck Graves, and guidance from bLU cRU Rider Coach Josh Hayes.

"We've got some great kids who learned a bunch in the first race," said Chuck. "They're all very enthusiastic and it's really exciting stuff. Everybody is having a great time, and the rewards from working with these riders are really top-notch and very satisfying."

2018 MotoAmerica Superbike Standings (After Race 1)

- Position/Rider/Points**
- 1 Tony Elias - Suzuki/25
 - 2 Mathew Scholtz - Yamaha/20
 - 3 Garrett Gerloff - Yamaha/16
 - 9 Cameron Beaubier - Yamaha/7

2018 MotoAmerica Supersport Standings (After Race 1)

- Position/Rider/Points**
- 1 JD Beach - Yamaha/25
 - 2 Hayden Gillim - Yamaha/20
 - 3 Cory West - Suzuki/16



SATURDAY SUPERBIKE PODIUM

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