

Yamaha bLU cRU Riders Conquer Rain at Road Atlanta Supersport Podium Sweep Among Sunday's Successes

After a sunny Saturday filled with podium finishes by Yamaha's bLU cRU road racers at the opening round of the 2018 MotoAmerica AMA/FIM North American Road Racing Championship at Road Atlanta, a storm front moved in during the night and heavy rain became a major factor in Sunday's competition. Yamaha riders and teams quickly adapted and showed their strength, though, overcoming the challenging wet conditions throughout the day to reach the podium in the Superbike and Supersport races.

Monster Energy/Yamalube/Yamaha Factory Racing Superbike Team

After a crash at the start of Saturday's race and a ninth-place finish, two-time MotoAmerica Superbike Champion Cameron Beaubier kept his focus on important series points and rode smart in Sunday's shortened 18-lap Superbike Race 2. As the green flag waved, he got off to a great second-place start and swapped podium positions through the first six laps. By lap seven, Beaubier had situated himself within striking distance of the lead and he soon moved his #6 R1 into the first-place position for eight solid laps until a hard-charging Toni Elias swept by going into lap 17. Beaubier kept his head down and crossed the finish line in a hard-fought second place.

Meanwhile, Garrett Gerloff's hopes of beating Saturdays' third-place finish in Race 1 were lost when he crashed shortly after the start of Race 2 on Sunday. Uninjured with his #31 R1 still in rideable condition, Gerloff managed to salvage ninth-place, adding valuable points to his title chase as a Superbike rookie.

Cameron Beaubier - #6 YZF-R1

"Road Atlanta was tough on us this year. I had three crashes throughout the weekend including Race 1. I went into Race 2 without a ton of confidence but ended up feeling OK through the race. I am happy to finish the weekend salvaging some points and plan to hit the 'refresh' button for the next race at COTA!"

Garrett Gerloff - #31 YZF-R1

"It was a great learning weekend for me! I felt confident and really good on the bike all weekend. My team and I are working really well together. I had some first race nerves going into Race 1 but stayed loose and was able to get on the box in my very first Superbike race! Race 2 in the rain was a wild ride. I felt great on the first few laps, but misjudged the levels of rear grip I had and high-sided in turn 10. The Yamaha R1 is such a durable bike, though, and I was able to pick the bike up and finish in 9th place. All in all, I'm content with my first weekend on the big bike and ready to build from here for the rest of the season. Let's go to Austin!"

Tom Halverson - Team Manager

"Cameron had a good performance in the rain to lead the race and finish second in Superbike Race 2. It was a tough weekend for

Cameron, but we leave here with him third in points in the championship and confident that he has what it takes to win. Garrett had an unfortunate crash in his first race in the rain on the Superbike, but like Cameron in Race 1, he was able to rejoin the race and gain valuable points for the Championship. Hats off to the team for working through a tough weekend with a great attitude and getting both riders on the podium. We are looking forward to racing for the win at the MotoGP event this weekend at Circuit of the Americas!"

Monster Energy/Yamaha Extended Service/Graves/Yamaha Supersport Team

Monster Energy/Yamaha Extended Service/Graves/Yamaha's JD Beach emerged from the opening round with a positive all-around performance to kick off the 2018 Supersport Championship. Beach qualified on pole, claimed victory in Race 1 on Saturday, and then followed up with a second-place performance in Race 2 on Sunday.

Beach continued his streak of great starts when the green flag waved for extremely wet Supersport Race 2 on Sunday, and the #95 R6 maintained the lead for the first four laps. On lap four, Rickdiculous Racing's Hayden Gillim made a strong pass on his R6, and the duo rode all the way to the checkers in the 1-2 positions.

JD Beach - #95 YZF-R6

"Round 1 for MotoAmerica could have only been one spot better for me. We almost pulled off the perfect weekend! I qualified on pole and snagged the win in Race 1 but I brought it home safe in Race 2 and got second. It was a crazy race today in the rain and very stressful. It would have been awesome to get the win but we came away with some great points and feeling strong for VIR."

Chuck Graves - Team Owner

"Overall, I think JD Beach and the R6 had a really good weekend. Qualifying on the pole, winning the first race, trading first and second place with Hayden Gillim - I think it was really success for Yamaha and for Graves Motorsports. It looks like there is a lot of parity in the Supersport class, so we should expect to see some really exciting racing moving forward there."

2018 MotoAmerica Superbike Standings (After Race 2)

Position/Rider/Points

- 1 Tony Elias - Suzuki/50
- 2 Mathew Scholtz - Yamaha/36
- 3 Cameron Beaubier - Yamaha/27
- 4 Garrett Gerloff - Yamaha/23

2018 MotoAmerica Supersport Standings (After Race 2)

Position/Rider/Points

- 1 Hayden Gillim - Yamaha/45
- 2 JD Beach - Yamaha/45
- 3 Cory West - Suzuki/24

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