

2018 MotoAmerica Series Finale at Barber Motorsports Park

Story: Phillip Prichard / Photos: MSA Staff

The 2018 MotoAmerica Series Season concluded at Barber Motorsports Park with a Motul Superbike race that was a fitting finale and one of the best of the season. When all was said and done, it was Yoshimura Suzuki's Toni Elias taking his ninth win of the season but not without a frantic final two laps by Motul Superbike Champion Cameron Beaubier, the three-time champ coming up just .333 of a second short at the finish.

The win was the 25th of Elias' MotoAmerica Superbike career and he will start the 2019 season just three behind World and AMA Superbike Champion Ben Spies, who is fifth on the all-time list.

Elias had his hands full for the duration with Attack Performance/Herrin Compound Yamaha's Josh Herrin early, then Beaubier late as the three diced it up for the entire race. Beaubier made a mistake in turn five with two laps to go and it allowed Elias to pull out a lead. But the newly crowned champion put his head down and turned in two stellar laps to pull Elias back in. It was too little too late, however, and Beaubier was forced to settle for what was his 16th podium finish of the year.

At the end of the 21-lap race, Herrin was three seconds behind the lead duo but a comfortable third. It was the Georgian's 12th podium of a season that included two victories.

Yamalube/Westby Racing's Mathew Scholtz rode well to finish fourth, climbing to within a second of the top-three battle at the halfway mark but eventually finishing 9.5 seconds behind Herrin. M4 ECSTAR Suzuki's Jake Lewis was fifth, some 10 seconds behind Scholtz and some six seconds clear of Scheibe Racing BMW's Danny Eslick.

Genuine Broaster Chicken Honda's Bobby Fong ended his trying 2018 season with a seventh-place finish.

Yoshimura Suzuki's Roger Hayden ran off track on the opening lap of the final race of his career and spent the rest of the race making up for it. He ended up finishing eighth, honored on his final run down the front straight to the finish line with crews from every team lined up against

the pit wall and cheering him on.

CCFOfficeSolutions.com's Geoff May and Ben Young Racing's Ben Young rounded out the top 10 on their BMWs.

The final standings have Beaubier with 390 points, 51 more than Elias. Herrin ended the season third, 50 points clear of Scholtz. Gerloff rounded out the top five, just one point ahead of Lewis.

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JOSH HERRIN IN THE SS'S



GARRETT GERLOFF



ROGER #95 AND JAKE LEWIS



BARBER MOTORSPORT PARK



JOSH HAYES WISHES ROGER LUCK IN HIS FINAL RIDE



SUPERBIKE RIDERS ALL IN A ROW



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