



## Nürburgring – Races. Sunday, 9th September 2012.

Weather conditions: Sunny.

Temperature: Air: 24 – 25 °C, Track: 35 – 47 °C

Number of riders participating: 22 from 12 teams

Fastest lap Race 1: Max Biaggi (Aprilia Racing Team) 1:55.267 min

Fastest lap Race 2: Carlos Checa (Althea Racing) 1:56.148 min

At its home round at Nürburgring (GER), Team BMW Motorrad Motorsport experienced the tough side of racing. Factory riders Marco Melandri (ITA) and Leon Haslam (GBR) had top positions in reach once more, but today lady luck was against them. Marco crashed in both races. Leon, who is still suffering a lot of pain from his injured left shoulder, rode bravely to seventh in race one, but also crashed in race two. Despite some disappointment, the team is now looking forward to fighting back in two weeks' time at Portimão (POR), the venue for the penultimate round of the 2012 FIM Superbike World Championship.

At the start of race one, Marco lost two positions, but he soon had fought back to his initial third place. For the following laps he was close behind leader Max Biaggi (ITA) and Tom Sykes (GBR) but his fight for the top positions ended on lap six, when he lost control of the front of his BMW S 1000 RR and crashed entering turn eight. Leon, who started from 12th, overcame his injury until he took the chequered flag. He temporarily rode in fifth position but in the closing stages of the race he had no more power to attack and finished seventh. In the first half of race two it seemed as though the team was back on the road to success. Marco had improved to second after a just few corners and took the lead on lap eight but on lap nine he suddenly lost the front again and crashed. Leon made up four positions at the start. After he had slipped back to ninth after a small mistake he fought his way back up but crashed one lap after Marco. He was taken to the Clínica Mobile where first examinations fortunately showed that he had suffered no major injuries.

In the Riders' Championship, Marco is second with 308.5 points, 9.5 points behind leader Max Biaggi. Leon is seventh with 189 points. In the Manufacturers' Standings BMW is also second with 377 points, 7.5 points behind Aprilia. The races were won by Max Biaggi and Chaz Davies (GBR). BMW Motorrad Italia GoldBet SBK Team's Ayrton Badovini (ITA) claimed two ninth places while his team-mate Michel Fabrizio (ITA) retired in both races.

In the FIM Superstock 1000 Cup race, two RR riders stood on the podium. Sylvain Barrier (FRA) from the BMW Motorrad Italia GoldBet STK Team claimed his fourth victory of the season. Young German Markus Reiterberger from Team Alpha Racing celebrated his first ever podium finish in this series by finishing third at his home round.

Leon Haslam:

Result Race 1: 7th / Gap to 1st: 00:27.017 min / Fastest Lap Race 1: 1:56.188 min

Result Race 2: DNF / Fastest Lap Race 2: 1:56.402 min

"Race one was really bad. I felt I had the pace to run with Eugene Laverty and Chaz Davies. Earlier on I was struggling a little bit with the feel at the front and I found it quite hard to pass the other guys but then midway through the race I was really struggling with changing direction and in the last six or seven laps I had zero power. My lap times went up to high 59s and two minutes in the end, while yesterday I did a race simulation all in 56s. So for me it was really disappointing because it should have been a podium but today was affected by my injury and the power through my shoulder.

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In race two I felt pretty comfortable. I was in a battle with Eugene and Leon Camier who finished second and third. I made a mistake a few laps before the crash which dropped me back behind the Ducatis but I managed to get back by them guys and to catch up to Camier but then I just lost the front. I never really had any slides before. It was just in that lap and it put me down pretty fast. It was strange. In race one a lot of people crashed that way. In race two it was me and Marco. Normally the crashes are on braking, but this time it was off brakes. I don't have any other major damage, just a lot of bruises. I landed on the same shoulder again and damaged my

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elbow and a finger a little bit but nothing too major. I am happy about a two week break now and then we will work on to getting back to where we should be. Today we were in a battle for second or third coming from 12th on the grid with my injuries so I can't be unhappy but I am just disappointed about the crash."

Marco Melandri:

Result Race 1: DNF / Fastest Lap Race 1: 1:55.421 min

Result Race 2: DNF / Fastest Lap Race 2: 1:56.281 min

"Today was my first time getting a double zero. It was two different races, but with the same result. I am very disappointed for the team that is working so hard. In race one I struggled a lot with the rear grip and was losing a lot compared to the guys in front of me so I was trying to catch them in braking. I was braking very hard every time but in corner eight I took a bump and just lost the front. I don't know what caused my crash in race two yet. I was on the straight and lost the front. That was strange. Now I will recharge my batteries and fight back in Portugal."

Bernhard Gobmeier (BMW Motorrad Motorsport Director):

"It was a day to forget. Overall the weekend went well. We made big steps forward and the bikes were prepared well for the races. The riders felt comfortable on their RRs and we proved that our race pace, as well as our qualifying pace, was very competitive, but today we had just bad luck on our heels. Neither the riders nor the team are to blame. A big thank you to the whole team crews who again worked so hard this weekend. Marco was on his way to claim two more top positions, but it was not meant to be today. Hats off to Leon; despite his injury he fought so bravely. Now we are looking forward to Portimão. There are four more races to go with 100 points more to get. We now focus on the coming races where we again will give our best."

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