

# MotoGP COMMERCIALBANK GRAND PRIX OF QATAR

## MORIWAKI RACING RACE REPORT

### **Moto2 class**

Toni Elias got the pole position start at the very first World Grand Prix Moto2 race in history and finished in 4th. Another top10 finish for MD600 was Tom Luthi, he finished in 7th.

Replacing the 2-stroke 250cc class, the Moto2 is starting from this year and it has been gaining much attention from pre-season tests. 41 entries with 15 different chassis brands are competing in the new class.

MORIWAKI is supplying total of 6 Moto2 bikes to 4 teams. Toni Elias (Gresini Racing Moto2) had shown good results in pre-season tests, putting himself on top of the time sheet, but he crashed at the last day of the official pre-season test in Jerez, resulting left hand and right ankle fractures. He came to Qatar to this opening round without recovering completely. His team mate is a Russian rider who spent his race career in Italian championship. Vladimir Ivanov will showcase a good ride using his physical gift.

From Interwetten Moriwaki Moto2 team, a former 125cc champion and 250cc GP rider, Thomas Luthi is entering the class. Fonsi Nieto, a former 250cc and WSBK rider and Yannic Guerra are from Spanish Holiday Gym G22 team. And Lukas Pesek who competed in 125 and 250cc is entering from Matteoni C.P. Racing. Total of 6 riders are taking MORIWAKI MD600 at the opening round.

Every team was busy finding the basic setting at the Free practice on Friday evening. Alex de Angelis marked 2min3.239sec, got on top of the time sheet. Among MORIWAKI riders, Toni Elias got 2min4.554sec and that put him at 13th place despite pain he was getting from his injury. And Ivanov 22nd, Nieto 24th, Luthi 29th, Pesek 34th and Guerra 40th respectively.

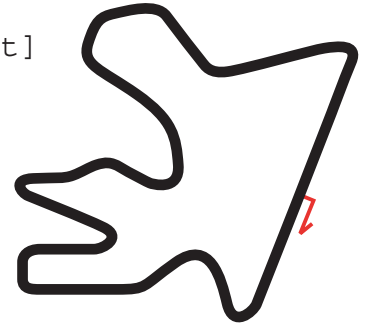
The track condition improved on day2, Stefan Bradl (Viessmann Kiefer Racing) was the only rider went under 2min3sec mark, got 2min2.877sec. Toni Elias was again the fastest among MORIWAKI MD600s but still 13th position with 2min4.059sec. Tom Luthi struggled with engine adjustment, got 20th position, and Pesek 24th, Nieto 28th, Ivanov 36th and Guerra 39th.

At the qualifying session, MORIWAKI teams suddenly improved their laps after the thorough "setting up" operation. Toni Elias was controlling his riding at the beginning because of his injury but he put everything he had and got first ever Moto2 pole position with 2min1.904sec. "I never thought I would get the pole position." said Elias who had shortened the lap time about 2sec from the Free practice session. "I am very happy. I will be racing with the painkiller tomorrow." expressing his joy of getting the pole position but he could not hide the pain he was having.

Top 13 were within less than a second, it was becoming really close competition. Tom Luthi improved his lap to 2min3.041sec, settled at 16th. Nieto 2min3.390sec, 24th, Pesek 25th with 2min3.531sec. Ivanov and Guerra were on 2min4sec, 33rd and 40th position respectively.

[Losail Circuit]

LENGTH 5,380m



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41 machines were filling the starting grid. The race was rough one from the beginning. Right after the race started, front-row starter Bradl (Viessmann Kiefer Racing) and Angelis (RSM Team Scott) crashed out at the turn #2. But, the pole sitter, Elias managed to keep his position at the first lap.

In the early stage of the race, following Elias were Shoya Tomizawa (Technomag-CCIP), Yuki Takahashi (Tech 3 Racing), Jules Cluzel (Forward Racing) and Alex Debon (Aeroporto de Castello-Ajo), making the top group. Takahashi crashed out later and Tomizawa picked up his pace and won the race. Debon and Cluzel fought hard behind Tomizawa, and Debon finished the race in 2nd.

And just behind those 2 was Elias who kept his position from Roberto Rolfo (Italtrans STR), finished in 4th. He just missed the podium but his race with wounded body showcased the MORIWAKI MD600 performance most satisfactorily.

All MD600s completed the race. The 2nd among MORIWAKI riders were Luthi who finished in 7th from 16th position start. Nieto also improved his position from 24th in Qualifying session to 13th in the race and Pešek got 15th. 4 MORIWAKI MD600s gained points at the debut race. Ivanov finished in 26th and Guerra in 30th.

### ●Toni Elias (Gresini Racing Moto2 / 4th)

I had really exciting race in the top group. So many times I was going to bump other guys and so many times I was going to crash because to avoid collision. It was a hard race but I think I did whatever I could whole through the race. It was sever for tires and I was having a hard time controlling the bike after the tires started slipping because of my physical condition. It was bad that I missed the podium but I managed to get the pole position and I was satisfied with the result considering the injury. Now I am looking forward next round at Motegi which is one of my favorites. My physical condition should be better and I want to show good race at MORIWAKI's home Grand Prix.

### ●Thomas Luthi (Interwetten Moriwaki Moto2 / 7th)

I had a good start. I thought I could gain some positions in the lap1 but Angelis crashed and that forced me to lose some positions. I'm not complaining about the mess but the lap1 was like a war. On day1 and day2, the engine wasn't really in good condition and we had number of small troubles. Moreover, we couldn't really test the tires. Considering all these odds, I am satisfied with the race result.

### ●Fonsi Nieto (Holiday Gym G22 / 13th)

The race might be carried out in equal condition to everyone but we couldn't have satisfactory pre-season tests due to bad weather. So, I am quite happy with the 13th finish. The bike setting has been progressing and I am really looking forward the next race.

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### RESULT

#### Qualifying

POS	No	RIDER	TEAM	TIME
P.P.	24	TONI ELIAS	GRESINI RACING MOTO2	2,01.904
16	12	THOMAS LUTHI	INTERWETTEN MORIWAKI RACING	2,03.041
24	10	FONSI NIETO	G22 HOLIDAYGYM	2,03.390
25	52	LUKAS PESEK	MATTEONI C.P. RACING	2,03.531
33	61	VLADIMR IVANOV	GRESINI RACING MOTO2	2,04.470
30	88	YANNICK GUERRA	G22 HOLIDAYGYM	2,05.460

#### RACE

POS	No	RIDER	TEAM	GAP
4	24	TONI ELIAS	GRESINI RACING MOTO2	6.978
7	12	THOMAS LUTHI	INTERWETTEN MORIWAKI RACING	11.861
13	10	FONSI NIETO	G22 HOLIDAYGYM	21.835
15	52	LUKAS PESEK	MATTEONI C.P. RACING	26.265
26	61	VLADIMR IVANOV	GRESINI RACING MOTO2	54.252
30	88	YANNICK GUERRA	G22 HOLIDAYGYM	1,20.651

#### Fastest Lap (New record)

No	RIDER	TEAM	TIME
12	THOMAS LUTHI	INTERWETTEN MORIWAKI RACING	2,02.537

#### Circuit Best Lap

No	RIDER	TEAM	TIME
24	TONI ELIAS	GRESINI RACING MOTO2	2,01.904



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