

MotoGP rd.14 GRAND PRIX OF JAPAN MORIWAKI RACING RACE REPORT

Moto2 class

Elias ever closer to the World Championship title with 7th win of the season. MORIWAKI gained more lead in the Constructor standing.

MotoGP round14, Japan Grand Prix was held on beginning of October at Twin Ring Motegi. This round was originally scheduled in April as second round of the season, however, due to the Icelandic volcano eruption and was postponed till this month. The first round of 3 consecutive weekends can be a decisive moment for the Championship.

It's MORIWAKI's home Grand Prix and they put all effort to support every MD600 teams. Toni Elias (Gresini Racing Moto2) is the closest guy to the inaugural title, qualified in 4th where 15 riders were in less than a second from the pole position rider. Pressure has been building up for Elias to take the title. It is a fight against himself, and yet he snatched the front-row start.

He started very well and passed the very first corner in second position. Then he moved up to take lead from Yuki Takahashi (Tech3) who took the hole shot. The battle for 1st became between Elias and Julian Simon (Suter). Elias won the fierce battle and took 7th victory of the season.

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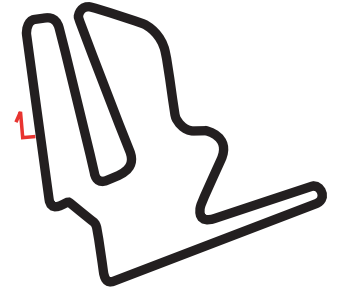
Andrea Iannone (Speed Up) finished only in 13th and dropped out from the Championship race. Adding another 25points, Elias now has 249points, 81points ahead of Simon. If Elias keeps more than 75points lead after the next round in Malaysia, he will be the first Moto2 World Champion ever, thus, MORIWAKI becomes the World Champion machine supplier.

MORIWAKI is now 274points in the Constructor Championship standing, 38points lead to Suter. There will be more races before we know who is going to be the Constructor Champion, however, Elias's 7th victory pushed MORIWAKI one step forward to the title.

Thomas Luthi (Interwetten Moriwaki Moto2) is currently 4th in the Championship standing, qualified in 16th and finished the race in 8th, before Iannone who is the 3rd in the Championship. Luthi is still 4th but narrow the gap to Iannone to just 9points.

Other MD600 riders: Yannick Guerra (Holiday Gym G22) qualified in 38th and finished in 29th. Vladimir Ivanov (Gresini Racing Moto2) started the race from 39th and finished it in 32nd. The new comer, Ferruccio Lamborghini (Matteoni Racing) was 33rd both at QP and race. Fonsi Nieto (Holiday Gym G22) qualified in 14th at the third race after his injury but had to retired because of a crash involved with other rider.

[Motegi Circuit]
LENGTH 4,801m



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Shogo Moriwaki and MORIWAKI entered the race as one of wildcards but MORIWAKI had to cancel the race, because Shogo injured his left eye before the weekend. He was hit by a rock which flown by a sweeper truck while he was jogging a day before. He vision improved through the weekend but it was too dangerous to join other riders in the race, though he qualified in 27th on Saturday.

●Toni Elias (1st)

I'm very happy to take the victory, and the title is getting closer. Everything went good this weekend and I want to dedicate the win to Shoya, which I couldn't do at Aragon. But it is good that I won at his home country race. I was able to control the race from earlier but it wasn't easy to win the battle with Simon. I only just kept him behind. I'm also happy because it was MORIWAKI's home, too. It was a great day. Starting from the front-row was an advantage.

●Thomas Luthi (8th)

It was a difficult race for me. Started from 16th and took me a while to move forward. The track was a chaos and everyone was fighting aggressively. I eventually closed the gap to a group in front and overtook some riders. I will try to get better starting grid next time and that will improve my race result. Anyway, the starting from 16th grid was all about.

●Yannick Guerra (29th)

I made another step forward. I started well and I could move 8 positions in the first lap. The most importantly I could keep pace with a group. Now I need to shorten the lap by 0.5sec then I can make another step forward. I enjoyed chasing with other riders. And I want to enjoy more at Malaysia. My QP result still wasn't good but I think I had good race.

●Vladimir Ivanov (32nd)

I was very happy to be back, but my QP result wasn't good and had to start from way behind. Anyway, I did the best I could and I had to accept the result. I didn't have much confidence when I rode on Friday. Now I'm happy that I finished the race.

●Fonsi Nieto (Crashed out)

After the Free Practice, I saw my data and it was showing good sign so I was looking forward the race. But I couldn't move my injured leg properly and it was difficult. I thought I would be okay to run in second group but I collided with Di Meglio at braking and crashed. Sepang circuit is one of my favorite and I won in the past, so I want to showcase good race there.



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RESULT

Qualifying

| POS | No | RIDER | TEAM | TIME |
|-----|----|--------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 4 | 24 | Toni ELIAS | Gresini Racing Moto2 | 1'53.504 |
| 14 | 10 | Fonsi NIETO | Holiday Gym G22 | 1'53.929 |
| 16 | 12 | Thomas LUTHI | Interwetten Moriwaki Moto2 | 1'53.961 |
| 27 | 83 | Shogo Moriwaki | Moriwaki Racing | 1'54.631 |
| 33 | 64 | Santiago HERNANDEZ | Matteoni CP Racing | 1'55.955 |
| 38 | 88 | Yannick GUERRA | Holiday Gym G22 | 1'56.474 |
| 39 | 10 | Vladimir IVANOV | Gresini Racing Moto2 | 1'56.624 |

RACE

| POS | No | RIDER | TEAM |
|-----|----|--------------------|----------------------------|
| WIN | 24 | Toni ELIAS | Gresini Racing Moto2 |
| 8 | 12 | Thomas LUTHI | Interwetten Moriwaki Moto2 |
| 29 | 88 | Yannick GUERRA | Holiday Gym G22 |
| 32 | 10 | Vladimir IVANOV | Gresini Racing Moto2 |
| 33 | 64 | Santiago HERNANDEZ | Matteoni CP Racing |

Not Classified

| No | RIDER | TEAM |
|----|-------------|-----------------|
| 10 | Fonsi NIETO | Holiday Gym G22 |

Retire

| No | RIDER | TEAM |
|----|----------------|-----------------|
| 83 | Shogo Moriwaki | Moriwaki Racing |

World Championship Classification

RIDER POINT RANKING

| POS | No | RIDER | POINT |
|-----|----|-----------------|-------|
| 1 | 24 | Toni ELIAS | 249 |
| 4 | 12 | Thomas LUTHI | 168 |
| 17 | 10 | Fonsi NIETO | 41 |
| 28 | 19 | Xavier SIMEON | 9 |
| 32 | 52 | Lukas PESEK | 5 |
| 33 | 51 | Michele PIRRO | 2 |
| 36 | 61 | Vladimir IVANOV | 2 |

| CONSTRUCTOR CHAMPIONSHIP |
|------------------------------|
| MORIWAKI MD600 RANKING / TOP |



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