

MotoGP MONSTER ENERGY GRAND PRIX DE FRANCE

MORIWAKI RACING RACE REPORT

Moto2 class

Elias and MORIWAKI MD600, 2 successive win, putting MORIWAKI just 2 points behind Suter who is now leading the constructors point standing

The round3 of MotoGP underwent in France, blessed with fine spring weather. It was Toni Elias who started from 7th in the grid and took another Grand Prix victory in the ever competitive class following the last event at Jerez, Spain. The weather in Le Mans had been one of concerning factor for riders as well as spectators but this year, there was no disappointment displayed on the 80,000 faces of spectators. The mercury went up around 30C every day through the weekend and the race started under the 31C heat which could be sever condition to Moto2 tires, however, Toni Elias aboard MD600 continuously showed his competitiveness that had been proven since the opening round.

Fonsi Nieto also ran strongly from 5th in grid and finished in 8th, his best result so far, while Lukas Pesek gained championship standing point, his second time since the opening round at Qatar. Other MORIWAKI riders; Thomas Luthi finished in 19th from 17th position start, Vladimir Ivanov finished in 21st and Yannick Guerra in 25th. There was one another MD600 joined the round as a wildcard entry, Xavier Simeon but he crashed and retired the race.

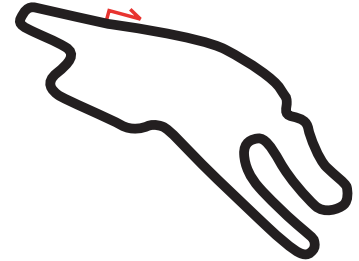
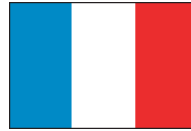
Since the opening round of the season, this new class has been showcasing tough battles. The Le Mans course has number of tight corners and this could be the most competitive race so far. At the FP-1 held on Friday, Jules Cluzel (Suter) marked 1min39.827sec, claimed the fastest in the session just 0.089sec faster than Alex de Angelis (Force GP210) who put himself on second on the time sheet, followed by the Spain GP winner, MORIWAKI MD600 onboard Toni Elias.

Other MORIWAKI MD600 riders: Fonsi Nieto had a good start of the event, marked 1min40.426sec, 5th position. There were only 7 riders with in a second gap from the leader, so the session result wasn't as close as we all expected. Thomas Luthi on 9th, Lukas Pesek on 13th, the wildcard Xavier Simeon on 27th, Vladimir Ivanov on 33rd and Yannick Guerra on 41st.

On day2, the mercury went up again to 29C under Le Mans blue sky. Riders and tires had to endure the heat, but everyone worked well with their machine set up. All that brought the game ever closer. At the FP-2 in the morning, Elias made steady progress and got on top of the timesheet with 1min39.608sec. 26riders were in the sprit of a second, the race only gets more competitive than ever. Just a slight mistake will cost a rider a lot. Luthi was second fastest among MD600, 0.492sec behind Elias, on 12th. Pesek, Nieto and Ivanov were those 26riders who were within a second, 16, 19 and 26 respectively. And Simeon on 34th and Guerra on 41st.

[Le Mans Circuit]

LENGTH 4,185m



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The competitiveness of the class was also visible at the QP session in the Saturday afternoon, Kenny Noyes (Promoharris) got the pole position with 1min39.234sec lap time. Yuki Takahashi (Tech 3), Alex Debon (FTR) and Jules Cluzel followed the leader within a difference of 1 tenth of a second, filling the front row of the race. Among MORIWAKI MD600s, Fonsi Nieto who had been riding strong from the day1, got 5th position, 0.168sec behind the leader. We all hoped to see Elias doing the same as the Qatar round but he started the session from the bottom of the timesheet due to a crash he made right after the session began. He managed to gain his position all the way up to 7th before the session finished, mere 0.283sec gap from Noyes. Other MD600 riders were: Simeon 11th, Luthi 17th, Pesek 22nd, Ivanov 34th and Guerra 40th.

Race: The sun stayed over the Le Mans sky and the race underwent in 31C degrees, heat in the air and heat in the race were much expected. Toni Elias once again showed great race from the 7th in the starting grid. He joined the top group from the beginning, having Jules Cluzel (Suter) who was full of spirit at his home race and Alex Debon (FTR) next to him. But they didn't stay long with Elias. Debon got a jumpstart penalty and Cluzel crashed. From the mid of the race, Elias led the 600class followed by Julian Simon (Suter) and Simone Corsi (Motobi), and he gradually opened up the gap and took his second victory of the season. 4th in Qatar and 2 wins brought him now on the top of championship standing, and also putting MORIWAKI on 2nd at constructors standing, just 2points behind Suter.

There was another pack of 4 behind the leaders, battling to get 5th position. Nieto aboard his MD600 and fought against Gabor Talmacsi (Fimmco Speed Up), Sergio Gadea (Pons Kalex) and Rattapark Wilairot (Bimota), but he settled in 8th, the best result so far. Other MD600s: Pesek finished in 13th, Luthi 19th despite a crash during the race, Ivanov 21st and Guerra 25th.

The wildcard entry from Holiday Gym G22 team, Xavier Simeon had to retire due to a crash. His more appearance in the class is expected in the season.

●Toni Elias (1st):

"Everything was going well from the beginning. I crashed right after the qualifying started. I didn't even know what was going on, the front just folded and fell down. I could've ended in 41st position but I managed to bring back the bike to our pit and with my team's great work, I was able to gain my position to 7th. In the race, I was planning to stick with top group and make a move at the end. The pace dropped when the tires becoming problem as I expected but MORIWAKI MD600 could keep the pace and I was able to take my second consecutive victory. Now I am leading the championship standing but I want to concentrate on coming races without thinking about the championship standing. Maybe I was lucky at the qualifying practice but I really like to thank my team and Moriwaki for their great job through the weekend."

●Fonsi Nieto (8th):

"I had a good feeling from the day1 and I could make satisfactory progress. I made a small mistake during the QP session and it could have been better if I didn't but I am quite satisfied. At the race I was able to compete in the 5th-position-getter pack but I was slower at acceleration compare to other 3 in the pack. I say it is completely equal condition regarding the engine but must be the heat making such difference. I'm happy with MORIWAKI chassis. We come along well with the machine set up. I didn't have to make any request. I've been improving a lot from the last 2 rounds, both in qualifying and race. I am hoping to improve even more at next round."



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RESULT

Qualifying

POS	No	RIDER	TEAM	TIME
3	24	Toni ELIAS	Gresini Racing Moto2	1'44.424
5	12	Thomas LUTHI	Interwetten Moriwaki Moto2	1'44.573
18	10	Fonsi NIETO	Holiday Gym G22	1'45.149
33	52	Lukas PESEK	Matteoni CP Racing	1'46.059
35	61	Vladimir IVANOV	Gresini Racing Moto2	1'46.366
39	91	Ivan MORENO	Andalucia Cajasol	1'46.806
40	88	Yannick GUERRA	Holiday Gym G22	1'47.068

RACE

POS	No	RIDER	TEAM	GAP
WIN	24	Toni ELIAS	Gresini Racing Moto2	---
8	10	Fonsi NIETO	Holiday Gym G22	+14.554
13	52	Lukas PESEK	Matteoni CP Racing Moriwaki	+25.068
19	12	Thomas LUTHI	Interwetten Moriwaki Moto2	+43.180
21	61	Vladimir IVANOV	Gresini Racing Moto2	+47.761
25	88	Yannick GUERRA	Holiday Gym G22	+1'07.377

Not Classified

	19	Xavier SIMEON	Holiday Gym Racing	20 Laps
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World Championship Classification

RIDER POINT RANKING

POS	No	RIDER	POINT
1	24	Toni ELIAS	63
6	12	Thomas LUTHI	25
13	10	Fonsi NIETO	11
22	52	Lukas PESEK	4

CONSTRUCTOR CHAMPIONSHIP

MORIWAKI MD600 RANKING / 2nd



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