

MotoGP GRAN PREMIO bwin DE ESPANA MORIWAKI RACING RACE REPORT

Moto2 class

Elias takes a victory at his home circuit in Spain, followed by Luthi, another MORIWAKI MD600 to get podium finished in 3rd.

Due to the Icelandic volcano eruption, the air traffic across the Europe was disturbed and the MotoGP Japan round had to be postponed to October 3. Which made the May 2 race in Spain became 2nd round of the season.

At the opening round of the inaugural Moto2 class at Qatar, Toni Elias onboard MORIWAKI MD600 took pole position start. But he was 4th at the race, just missing the podium. MORIWAKI set mind to revenge at Motegi, Japan Grand Prix but it was postponed till autumn. Now, they reset their mind to get ready for the first European round, Spain GP.

There are 4 regular MORIWAKI teams with 6 riders and 1 wildcard entry, Ivan Moreno from Andalucia Cajasol team making 7 MORIWAKI MD600s in the grid. The weekend was blessed with Spanish sunshine. All spectators at the circuit must have enjoyed the weather, but certainly not for the riders. The warm spring day pushed the track temperature to almost 50C.

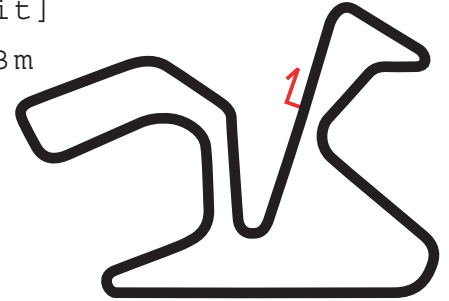
On Friday free practice#1, Alex Debon (FTR) marked quickest time of 1min44.419sec. Among MORIWAKI MD600, Thomas Luthi was the fastest with 1min45.352sec, getting the 9th position. Elias was on 14th with 1min45.517sec, Nieto on 21st, Pesek on 32nd, Ivanov on 36th, Guerra on 40th and Moreno on 42nd. The mercury reached 30C on Friday. It was a hard day for both riders and tires.

Luthi has been improving his speed after every session since the opening round at Qatar, also improved his lap at Jerez from a day before by 0.8sec, marked 1min44.558sec at the free practice#2 on Saturday, 3rd on the time sheet. Toni Elias also managed to shorten his lap time to 1min44.850sec, getting 8th position. The Friday's leader, Debon (FTR) couldn't improve his lap but the Friday time was fast enough to keep him on the top of the time sheet. It was another close competition. There were 22 riders within a second from the leader and Nieto was 26th, Pesek 29th, Ivanov 34th, the wildcard entry Moreno was 36th and Guerra 40th.

The qualifying session started in the afternoon on Saturday and the winner of Qatar, Shoya Tomizawa (Suter) got pole position with 1min44.372sec, followed by Julian Simon (RSV), Qatar pole sitter Elias on third with 1min44.424sec and Yuki Takahashi (Tech3) filled the front row with 4 riders in just 0.091sec. Thomas Luthi marked 1min44.573sec, managed to get 5th. 2 MD600 in top 5, expectation for the race was raised. Other MORIWAKI riders were; Nieto on 18th, Pesek 33rd, Ivanov 35th Moreno 39th and Guerra 40th. The Saturday was also very warm, got 29C.

[Jerez Circuit]

LENGTH 4,423m



TOTAL OF 3 PAGE(S) INCLUDING THIS ONE

MotoGP COMMERCIALBANK GRAND PRIX OF QATAR MORIWAKI RACING RACE REPORT

Race was again a fierce one, just like the opening round. Toni Elias got good start and into the first corner leading the pack. Tomizawa (Suter), Simone Corsi (Motobi) and others followed Elias closely and swapping positions numerously from the beginning. Then Tomizawa (Suter) and Corsi (Motobi) made contact at the back stretch in lap 2, and Tomizawa crashed his 600cc. Oil was spilled and about 10 riders including Elias slipped down and the race was red flagged.

The race restarted with 17 laps to go. It was competitive race as always. 9 riders in top group lead the race. Elias and Luthi were among the 9, switching there positions rapidly. All spectators enjoyed the not-expectable race. At the last 2lap, Luthi, Elias, Tomizawa (Suter) and Takahashi (Tech3) broke from the top group and headed to take a victory. But it was Elias who brought the first GP win to MORIWAKI MD600.

Tomizawa (Suter) was second and Luthi and Takahashi finished in 3rd and 4th respectively. There was only 0.261sec gap between the 3 podium finishers. It was Toni Elias who took the very first WGP Moto2 pole position at Qatar showed great performance in front of his home 122,000 spectators in Spain.

Other MORIWAKI riders: Nieto finished in 21st, Ivanov in 23rd, Pesek in 26th and Guerra in 33rd. The wild-card entry, Moreno crashed and retired the race.

●Toni Elias (Moto2 1st)

At the opening round in Qatar, I couldn't do my best due to the injury from pre-season test. Though I am still not perfect but I was able to run more comfortably than Qatar this time. I missed the pole position but, as you see, I won the race. I really wanted this win because Jerez is my home circuit and I am very happy that I was able to do it. The machine is not perfect yet and there are many things we have to do, but it was great that we won such a difficult race. I was disappointed when I lost MotoGP seat but now I am happy with where I am now. Everything is going well. I still had to take painkiller injection to my left had, but I am expecting better shape at Le Mans so I am really looking forward to the next round.

●Thomas Luthi (Moto2 3rd)

It was a difficult race. I regretted that I couldn't win after so many times switching top position but I enjoyed the race. The race was far too competitive from the beginning and I couldn't keep my pace. After it was red flagged and restarted, I made a good start and managed to stay in the top pack. The machine was great and I am very happy to be on my first podium. I could run in front of everybody today. Although I was passed by Toni and Tomizawa at the last lap, it brought me a big confidence. I am also very happy for my team with the result. I am going to try my best again at Le Mans to take another podium, or to win the race.



MotoGP COMMERCIALBANK GRAND PRIX OF QATAR

MORIWAKI RACING RACE REPORT

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	---
3	12	Thomas LUTHI	Interwetten Moriwaki Moto2	+0.261
21	10	Fonsi NIETO	Holiday Gym G22	+20.956
23	61	Vladimir IVANOV	Gresini Racing Moto2	+31.224
26	52	Lukas PESEK	Matteoni CP Racing Moriwaki	+34.090
33	88	Yannick GUERRA	Holiday Gym G22	+47.777

Not Classified

	91	Ivan MORENO	Andalucia Cajasol	9 Laps
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Fastest Lap (New record)

No	RIDER	TEAM	TIME
24	Toni ELIAS	Gresini Racing Moto2	1'44.372

World Championship Classification

RIDER POINT RANKING

POS	No	RIDER	POINT
2	24	Toni ELIAS	38
3	12	Thomas LUTHI	25
17	10	Fonsi NIETO	3
21	52	Lukas PESEK	1

CONSTRUCTOR CHAMPIONSHIP

MORIWAKI MD600 RANKING / 2nd



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