

SUPERSTOCK SIXTY-SIX

Race Report

23rd June 2003

Shell Advance Australian Superbike Championship
Round Three – Winton Raceway (VIC)
June 20 - 22, 2003



Image:
Stephen Piper

WEEKEND WOES AT WET WINTON

In his first race since ankle and wrist injuries, Australian Superstock rider Dean Bonthorne put on an impressive display during horrendous weather conditions at Victoria's Winton Raceway. Unfortunately these efforts received two DNFs for the weekend, though he still holds a top-15 place in the series.

QUALIFYING: 12th, Best Lap 1:35.950

After a first session position of 24th, refinements to setup and gearing on the Suzuki GSX-R600 added confidence for the final qualifying, resulting in a 3-second time reduction and excellent third-row grid position.

RACE ONE: DNF, Best Lap 1:38.060 (L2), Highest position - 7th

With darkness rapidly setting in for the 5.10pm race, Dean made a good start and worked through five riders to seventh position within two laps. On the fourth, another competitor's out-of-control machine struck him heavily on the inside of Hell Corner. Three bikes left the track in the incident, with Bonthorne's unable to continue due to broken clutch and gearshift controls from the fall. The 9-lap race was shortened by 2 laps due to lack of visibility.

RACE TWO: DNF, Best Lap 2:01.291 (L5), Highest position - 5th

In gradually worsening weather conditions, a torrential downpour arrived just as the second Superstock race began, creating widespread flooding and deep puddles at the apex of most corners. A ten-bike incident at the first corner did not effect Dean who held a safe inside line and set off in pursuit of a top-ten finish. With a combination of an acceleration-based gearing change and superior braking from new Goodridge pads and fluid, Dean gradually moved through the order. Just after completion of the fifth lap, the front wheel aquaplaned in deep water whilst still upright in fifth gear. Hitting the ground at well over 190km/h, Dean slid some 300 metres along the pit straight on his back, overtaking two more competitors. A quick check of the machine confirmed its inability to rejoin the race.

RACE THREE: Cancelled

Shortly after race 2, whilst repairing the GSX-R600 for the third event, the afternoon's racing was cancelled due to extensive track flooding that claimed dozens of victims including multiple-champions Shawn Giles & Kevin Curtain.

TELEVISION COVERAGE – Race Two Only

1) Channel 9 : Sat 28th June @ 12pm, 2) SBS Speedweek: Sun 6th July @ 4.30pm 3) FOXTEL 9pm Thurs Jun 5th



DUNLOP - NGK - DAINESE - PTR - YOSHIMURA - OHLINS - JAG SIGNS - SPIDI