



**Shell Advance Australian Superbike Championship
Round Four – Queensland Raceway (QLD), 8 – 10 August, 2003**

**BUMPY RIDE FOR DEANO
IN QUEENSLAND**



Image:
Arthur Thornton

Suzuki GSX-R600-mounted Superstock rider, Dean Bonthorne, found his first visit to Queensland Raceway a challenging one. Struggling to find a bike setup on the terribly bumpy stop-start circuit left him with a 19th in qualifying. Improvements to machine and confidence on raceday saw him gain multiple positions for a 14th and two 16th finishes, in his first chequered flag since April. He was also awarded 'AMCN Best Presented'

QUALIFYING: 19th, Best Lap 1:22.03

With a damp track effecting part of the valuable track-learning practice sessions on Friday, ongoing setup changes were made during Saturday qualifying, but were unsuccessful, resulting in a disappointing 5th row start position.

RACE ONE: 14th, Best Lap 1:20.43 (L9 of 9)

Overnight changes to gearing prioritising stability over exit drive, and suspension tweaks by Phil Tainton were immediately successful, being 7th fastest in morning warmup. Unfortunately, two corners into the race, Deano was pushed wide into the dirt, re-entering the track in 24th position. He replied with his most impressive ride to date, charging through no fewer than ten riders and climbing to a great 14th place come-back for two points.

RACE TWO: 16th, Best Lap 1:20.04 (L6)

Although more confident with the new set-up, recent costly DNFs were high on Dean's mind as he aimed for another incident-free ride in Race 2. Quickly making up two places in the opening lap, he lost time struggling to find a safe path past two slower riders, allowing the main pack to pull away. Eventually passing both riders in one hit under brakes he chased after the now distant 15th placed rider. Battling severe arm-pump from the circuit's continual heavy braking, he ran out of laps in the pursuit and missed the championship point by just 0.18sec

RACE THREE: 16th, Best Lap 1:21.36 (L8)

Determined to reward his efforts with long-missed top-15 points, was horrified at the race start when an over-eager clutch release saw his front wheel soar skyward. Regaining control with his left foot on the ground meant a missed gear change, allowing four riders past him on the grid. Again he fought through the pack, passing seven riders but again missing the 15th place point by just 0.27sec, but overall was very pleased to have an incident-free meeting.

TV COVERAGE: 1) Ch 9: Sat 16 Aug @12pm 2) SBS: Sun 17 Aug @4.30pm 3) FOXTEL: Thur 21 Aug @9pm

NEXT EVENT: Victorian Road Racing Titles, August 16-17th, Phillip Island (VIC). Current placing : 3rd Superstock.



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