



Deano 66
DEAN BONTHORNE RACING



Race Report

ULTIMATE EXHILARATION AT VICTORIOUS "STARS"

**2004 STARS OF TOMORROW
Phillip Island (VIC), 6 & 7 November 2004**

As was the case in 2003, the famous 'Stars of Tomorrow' race was a significant turning point in the racing career of Superstock rider Dean Bonthorne. The huge weekend was filled with amazing new experiences including the impressive mastering of wet-weather tyres (in both wet and dry conditions!), his most ferocious battles to date, and most significantly, his first-ever national-level race win!! Combining the three races Deano was overall victor in the Superstock class and 8th of 150 of Australia's C-grade contenders. Impressive stuff indeed.



QUALIFYING, 3rd of 41, Best Lap 1:45.03

With 41 Superstock riders from across the nation with wide variation in speed and circuit knowledge, trying to get a clear qualifying lap without slow traffic was near impossible. But fortunately Dean's persistence paid off with a couple of very respectable low 1:45s enough to put him on the front row of the huge field.

RACE 1: 1st, Best Lap 1:44.30 (L2 of 4)

Following a pep-talk of "Give it everything you have on your first lap", that's exactly what Deano did, firing off an amazing 1:50sec first lap from the standing start, almost 2 seconds faster than any other rider. His lead continued to stretch until the 3rd lap where he lost the rear-end under hard acceleration out of Siberia, almost resulting in a high-side crash, and losing substantial time in the process. For the final lap he was determined to hold his lead as the 2nd place rider caught up and attempted to pass, but Deano held him off crossing the line with fists pumping from excitement of his first national-level race win!!

RACE 2: 2nd, Best Lap 1:44.63 (L4 of 4)

Race 2 saw Dean again lead the pack for the first lap and a half until an error at Turn 4 resulted in lost drive and a subsequent placing. In the remaining laps the unpredictable riding style of the new leader reduced the number of safe passing maneuvers available to Deano. Still, the pressure he applied was very strong and the lead changed several times right up until they duo crossed the line just 0.8sec apart, with a considerable gap of 4sec behind.

RACE 3: 3rd, Best Lap 1:55.96 (L6 of 6)

Downpours on Sunday resulted in Dean's first-ever fitment of special wet-weather racing tyres. As the race began, immense nerves (having crashed out of his only 2 previous wet races) soon turned to white-knuckled exhilaration beyond description. Coming up from 6th he engaged in an astoundingly ferocious battle for 3rd as two wet-weather experts cleared off. The pace resulted in up to 6 overtakes per lap, knee-down through rivers of water and lapping 6 back-markers on the way to an amazing 1:55min lap time – Faster than any other Superbike or Supersport rider there in the wet! To clinch 3rd by 1.5sec in his first experience of such conditions was a huge achievement!

STARS OF TOMORROW: 8th overall, 2nd 600cc, Best Lap 1:53.89 (L10 of 10)

The prestigious "Stars" race comprises of the weekend's fastest 40 riders of any class, seeing Dean gridded a very impressive 12th among factory Superbikes! Declared a wet-tyre race, his eagerness to use this newly discovered wet speed soon changed as the track dried completely after the first lap and everyone's super-soft chunky tyres began to disintegrate. But determined to push on, Deano had another eye-popping race with rubber chunks flying at his head, huge 2-wheel slides at over 200kmh and leaning on riders that could crash at any second. Even being over-powered by the Superbikes on the long straight, he managed to climb from 15th up to 8th and finish the second of any 600cc machine present. A result he is exceptionally proud of, and rightfully so.

NEXT MEETING: Interclub Series Round 4 (Final), Broadford (VIC) 14th November 2004.



PIRELLI - NGK - DAINESE - PTR - YOSHIMURA - BANDIT - JAG SIGNS - SPIDI