



Deano 66
DEAN BONTHORNE RACING



Race Report

PODIUM POTENTIAL TURNS WOEFUL AT WINTON

**Aust Superbike Championship – Rd 5
Winton Raceway (VIC), 19th August 2005**

Returning from a three-month break in the racing calendar, Dean Bonthorne showed fine riding form at the front of the pack that can put his GSX-R600 on the national Superstock podium. But a mix of horrific weather, crashing and general mental instability meant this was never realized in a weekend that he'd rather put behind him. The end result was an extremely disappointing 16th overall with his 6th-place championship standing at one stage heading for a top-5, only to then settle in 8th as he moves on and prepares for the Queensland round next month.



Image: Keith Muir

QUALIFYING: 8th of 35, Best Lap 1:33.08

Rain on Friday left the already slick Winton surface super-slippery. With painful past experiences there in the wet, Deano was very cautious, and it showed in the times - Just 24th fastest in practice and then 17th in first qualifying. Thankfully the sun appeared on Saturday and he was able to get back on form and record the 9th fastest time in Qualifying 2. The pole-sitter was later disqualified, pushing Dean up to 8th and a fantastic 2nd-row grid position.

RACE ONE: 7th, Best Lap 1:32.40 (L6 of 8)

Despite a lofted front wheel leaving the grid, Deano managed to jump up to 4th by the first corner of racing and hold it for two laps before moving up to 3rd with an inside pass through the sweeping Turn 5. For a further three laps he maintained the podium position but the deafening roar of a \$35,000 Ducati loomed behind him. Although he was able to hold defensive lines for a couple of laps, the Duke passed him on the straight as Dean began to tire from the demanding circuit. On the final two laps he was swamped by a group of six riders, three managing to force a way past. With the three leaders long gone, the fierce pack of 7 bikes crossed the line covered by just 2 seconds and Dean pleased to hold on for 7th with a points haul setting him up for a top-five in the national series!

RACE TWO: DNF, Best Lap 1:33.90 (L2 of 2 completed)

Sunday's intermittent rain meant the track would change from wet to dry and back again almost ever half hour. For the dry Race 2 Dean was pumped to make amends for slipping back though the pack previously, but a collision with another out-of-control bike on the starting grid meant he could only reach 7th for the opening lap. However a clever avoidance move to miss a fallen leader's bike on track moved him up to a battle for 3rd. But near conclusion of the third lap, Deano was defensively off-line and locked the front wheel of his Suzuki under heavy braking, being thrown to the ground as the bike flipped off track and was unable to be restarted. Fuming devastation is the only term that could describe his temperament as Dean watched the remainder of the race from the gravel-trap wall...

RACE THREE: 18th, Best Lap 1:55.89 (L8 of 8)

Following frantic and extensive repairs to his GSX-R600, Deano was able to get back out there for Race 3, but unfortunately, just moments before the start, a brief downpour flooded the track. With his Superstock class on control road tyres (no wet-weather tyres permitted), the result was sheer carnage. Suffering huge wheelspin on the start line and general fear of being among the dozen bikes crashing in the wet, Dean was back in 20th when the race was halted after just 3 laps due to fallen bikes on track. A restart from back on the 5th row didn't help matters and Deano was concentrating feverishly just to keep his GSX-R upright as bikes ran off all around him. Eventually thankful to finally have the race, and indeed the weekend, over with he splashed across the finish line in 18th. That Queensland sun next month sure looks inviting!

NEXT MEETING: Australian Superbike Championship - Round 6, Queensland Raceway (QLD) 17-18 Sept, 2005.



BRIDGESTONE - OZY NOB - PTR - BANDIT - JAG SIGNS - EASYRIDER IMPORTS