



Race Report

**Aust Superbike Championship – Rd 6
QLD Raceway (QLD), 18th September 2005**

SUBSTANDARD SHOW IN SUNSHINE STATE

In the penultimate round of the 2005 national season, Dean Bonthorne made the trip to Queensland unsure of what to expect. He was greeted with a high-speed track so bumpy it's difficult to fathom and hard-braking corners from warp-speed that show no mercy. With the competition at an all-time high in the close field, Dean struggled in qualifying to be 16th on the grid. Even fighting his way forward in the 3 races was not rewarded due to set-up problems and a few errors from the pressure. Although 14th in the round, he still retains a commendable top-10 in the series... and even got his face on national TV in a one-on-one interview to be broadcast later in the year.



QUALIFYING: 16th of 25, Best Lap 1:19.84

With only one 20 minute practice session to learn the track leading up to the two qualifying sessions, getting a good grid position was always going to be challenging, especially with the confronting brutality of the circuit. In the first session Dean had major brake issues as components struggled with the high temperatures, and in the second, fierce winds were unkind to all. Overall, despite his best efforts, Dean could only manage a 4th row grid position, with times so close that just 1.5 seconds covered 5th through 17th place!

RACE ONE: 14th, Best Lap 1:19.92 (L6 of 8)

A fantastic start resulted in a jump up to 8th place by the first corner, although being so far off-line passing people, Deano's struck a massive bump that threw his GSX-R600 into a terrifying tank-slapper. Although it settled, he had lost drive into Turn 2 and was immediately out-gunned entering the long straight by two bikes, with another pair coming though at higher speed before the braking point. Not used to being so far back in the pack, Dean tried to push forward, but riders were all over the place riding very unpredictably. He made up a couple of places, but it was short-lived due to struggling with a fast line in Turn 6, and the pack would pull away down the front straight. With another rider closing fast, he managed to hang onto 14th... two places up on his grid slot.

RACE TWO: 11th, Best Lap 1:19.17 (L6 of 8)

On Sunday Deano delivered his most outstanding start to date, predicting the light change perfectly and leaping forward an incredible 10 places. With new geometry changes to his Suzuki, Dean kept touch with the leading group for the opening laps, but the frustration of those he left behind on the grid must have been immense, as 3 local riders made kamikaze passing moves under brakes. A few laps later he was out-powered by an ultra-expensive Ducati for 10th, which he clung to as severe arm-pump set in from the heavy braking. On the final turn a rider slipped though as Deano struggled to hold the bars, missing a top-10 spot by just a tenth of a second.

RACE THREE: 13th, Best Lap 1:18.39 (L5 of 7)

With the weekend an on-going learning process on the foreign circuit, further alterations to set-up were made for the final race. Deano was determined to use these and another strong start to be well inside the top 10 for the final battle. Unfortunately he botched the launch with an unwelcome mono, which was followed by a failed attempt to out-brake a local in the opening lap & nearly ran off, allowing through 6 riders from the freight train behind. Furious, Dean went all-out to make up for the mistake and sped in consistent low 1:18's, passing 7 riders in a few laps, until another braking error lost him 3 places. Although these were immediately regained, a red flag stopping the race meant results were counted from the prior lap. Pleasingly though, he is still 9th in the series, with the final round at Phillip Island where he is determined to go out with a bang! (...the good kind, of course)

NEXT MEETING: Aust Superbike Championship- Round 7 FINAL, Phillip Island (VIC) 12-13 November, 2005



RAVEN RACING - OZY NOB - PTR - BANDIT - JAG SIGNS - EASYRIDER IMPORTS