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TEAM
Mahindra
moto3™

25/10/2015. 17 MALAYSIAN GP - SEPANG - RACE

Pecco Bagnaia unrewarded for strong ride at Sepang

MAPFRE Team Mahindra rider battles in the lead group but crashes with three laps remaining, returning to finish the race in seventeenth



The most in-form rider of the second half of the Moto3 season took another victory at Sepang today that keeps the championship alive until the final round in Valencia. Miguel Oliveira pushed hard from the start to try and break the field in the early laps, forming a lead group of just seven riders after five laps. Fenati and Bagnaia put up the strongest challenge and although the pace wasn't as hot as the conditions a new circuit record was set (2'13.571). Oliveira hung on to take his second straight win, with Danny Kent's seventh place leaving the gap at 24 points, making for a final-round shootout in a fortnight's time.

Pecco Bagnaia started from sixth on the grid after being moved up two positions due to penalties for other riders. The MAPFRE Team Mahindra rider's objective was clear: to repeat his performance from Phillip Island and fight in the lead group. His determination was clear from the start as he launched into the battle for the podium positions, leading the race for a couple of laps of a race that would eventually end in disappointment. With just three laps remaining Pecco crashed out, remounting to finish in seventeenth. MAPFRE Team Mahindra youngster Jorge Martín contested his first Moto3 race in the gruelling conditions of Malaysia, staying on board after an early scare to gather valuable experience and points. Juanfran Guevara produced eighteen determined laps to bring his bike home in 20th position after struggling to find a set-up all weekend.

88



JORGE MARTÍN

12th Jorge Martín: "The heat has affected us all weekend and with three races in as many weekends this has not been easy. Despite everything, in general the race was quite positive. I started well, passed a few riders and I was in the lead group but then I had a scare, lost the rear and lost touch. I got passed back by a couple of riders and the race was tough from that point on. A group caught me and I decided to let them pass, save my tyres and try to attack at the end. The heat made it tough but to be honest I thought it would be worse. Still, I feel like I need to

train even harder in the winter and come back fitter next season. I am happy with the work we have done here and I am looking forward to going home now and getting ready for the last race of the season in Valencia".

17th Pecco Bagnaia: "It has been a very positive weekend because we have been fast throughout, even lapping alone. It was a shame that just a few laps from the end of the race today I crashed after making contact with another rider. I made a strong start and managed to run at the front, which was my target, but I could see that the riders around me could brake earlier and get on the gas later. Because we are lacking power I have to brake on the limit every time and accelerate very quickly, which puts a lot of stress on the tyres. I had a few incidents with other riders cutting me off on the straights, I don't know why they did that. Even though I crashed I was able to finish the race and we can go home satisfied with our work. We will work with the same intensity at Valencia and hopefully we'll get a little more luck."

21



FRANCESCO BAGNAIA

20th Juanfran Guevara: "We have had a lot of setbacks this weekend so we made another big change to the bike for the race and took a gamble on the soft tyre. It is so hot here it is hard to work on the set-up and over three days here we haven't found an answer. It has been a tough Grand Prix so we have to put it behind us now and

58



JUANFRAN GUEVARA

start thinking about Valencia, where I want to finish the season with a good result. It will be my last race with MAPFRE Team Mahindra and I want to sign off on a positive note."

