



yamahamotogp.com



Yamaha Factory Racing Reigns at Suzuka



Pictures for editorial use only - Copyrights 2015 Yamaha Motor Racing Srl



[+ Full photo gallery](#)

Suzuka (Japan), 26th July 2015

Round 2 of the 2015 FIM Endurance World Championship
The 38th "Coca-Cola Zero" Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Road Race

Sunday – Suzuka 8 Hours RACE

The **Yamaha Factory Racing Team** went above and beyond all expectations today at the Suzuka Circuit, riding the new **YZF-R1** to a phenomenal victory at the 38th "Coca-Cola Zero" Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Road Race.

Riders **Katsuyuki Nakasuga**, **Pol Espargaró** and **Bradley Smith** gave an outstanding performance in the hottest and most challenging conditions of the weekend. It was the trio's unbreakable determination, team spirit and the stunning performance of the **YZF-R1** that saw them overcome all obstacles and win **Yamahait's** first victory in this event in 19 years and its fifth in the race's history.

Losing a couple of positions from pole, first rider **Nakasuga** was quick to carve his way to the front as he chased down the race leaders. By lap three he had climbed up to sixth and kept the pressure on. He made his move as one by one the competitors went into the pits, showing the incredible potential of the **YZF-R1** when he dropped a stunning 2'08.496s on his sixth lap, the fastest lap time of the race. **Nakasuga** was scheduled to come in after 25 laps but completed an extra two before heading in as the race leader and handing the **YZF-R1** to **Smith**.

The British rider re-entered in third position, but soon moved up when the race leader crashed out of the race. **Smith** then had to deal with two separate safety car stints before finally taking the front a little more than two hours into the race.

It was then **Espargarò's** turn to take the **YZF-R1** for a spin. The Spaniard had been consistently fast all weekend and didn't disappoint today. He and **Nakasuga** created a comfortable margin before it was time for **Smith** to ride again.

He was only able to complete a few laps before being called in for a 30 second 'Stop and Go' penalty for **Espargaró** having passed under a yellow flag.

The penalty cost them a position but it wasn't long before **Smith** was back in first place and building a healthy gap before handing the bike over to **Espargaró** for a second time.

He and **Nakasuga** gave their all in their final riding stints before handing over to **Smith** for the last leg. The Brit's final ride of the race was far from simple as a third safety car caused some last-minute tension. **Smith** was again able to manage the situation perfectly and rode his factory **Yamaha YZF-R1** through the last corner to the deafening sound of cheering from the many thousand race fans as he took the chequered flag with a 1'17.411s advantage.

Reigning Endurance World Champions **GMT94 Yamaha** proved today that their strategy of focusing on the race set-up during qualifying had been the right one. Originally their first rider **David Checa**, decided to let **Kenny Foray** fill in for him at the start as he had only recently recovered from a knee injury. **Foray** was quick to adapt to the chaotic first lap and started to make his way to the front.

He and teammates **Kenny Foray** and **Mathieu Gines** showed how effective a strong team can be as they battled the entire eight hours to ride from 20th to fourth.

It was a disappointing day for the **Monster Energy Yamaha Austria Racing Team (YART)**. Having qualified 11th on the grid **Broc Parkes** had a good start and was quick to move up the order. He had a strong and consistent pace of 2'11.0 but his challenge came to a premature end when a technical issue made it impossible for the team to continue.

Besides the success of the Factory team, team **R1 & YAMALUBE** also gave **Yamaha** fans reasons to cheer. They crossed the finish line in 21st position, thereby coming out victorious the Superstock class.

Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Road Race – 8H Race – RESULTS

1st - #21 – YAMAHA FACTORY RACING TEAM

(Nakasuga, Espargarò, Smith) – Yamaha YZF-R1 – Laps 204 – Total Time 8:00'29.708

2nd - #778 – F.C.C. TSR Honda

(Hook, Smith, Aegerter) – Honda CBR1000RR – Laps 204 - +1'17.411

3rd - #17 – Team KAGAYAMA

(Kagayama, Haga, Riyouary) – Suzuki GSX-R1000 – Laps 203 - +1lap

4th - #30 – Suzuki Endurance Racing Team

(Philippe, Delhalle, Masson) – Suzuki GSX-R1000 – Laps 202 - +2laps

5th - #12 – Yoshimura Suzuki Shell Advance

(Tsuda, Waters, Lowes) – Suzuki GSX-R1000 – Laps 201 - +3laps

6th - #94 – GMT94 YAMAHA

(Checa, Foray, Gines) – Yamaha YZF-R1 – Laps 201 - +3laps

7th – Honda Endurance Team

(Da Costa, Gimbert, Foray) – Honda CBR1000RR – Laps 201 - +3laps

8th – Honda Suzuka Racing Team

(Hiura, Kamei, Yasuda) – Honda CBR1000RR – Laps 200 - +4laps

9th - #87 – Team GREEN

(Yanagawa, Yudhistira, Watanabe) – Kawasaki ZX-10R – Laps 199 - +5laps

10th - #32 – MotoMap SUPPLY

(Konno, Aoki, Ogata) – Suzuki GSX-R1000 – Laps 199 - +5laps

...

21st – Team R1 & Yamalube
(Tokinaga, Fujiwara, De Vries) – Yamaha YZF-R1 – Laps 194 - +10laps

...

39th - #60 – Iwata Racing Family
(Nishimura, Sawamura, Manabe) – Yamaha YZF-R1 – Laps 184 - +20laps

...

#7 - Monster Energy Yamaha - YART - Yamaha YZF-R1 - NC

To view today's 8H Race Results click [HERE](#).

The extended high-res imagery from today's 8H Race is available [HERE](#).

QUOTES



Katsuyuki Nakasuga

"As a team we started the race today with a set number of laps per rider and it was a lot of pressure for me to start the race but my first goal was that I had to finish this race. I've had times when I ended the race prematurely. I want to thank all the staff, the team and all the fans for their support. I'm really glad that we have won after nineteen years."



Pol Espargarò

"I'm so happy. It was an unbelievable race. I have to say sorry to my teammates because I made a mistake during the race. We had a stop and go penalty and we lost more than one minute. My teammates were impressive, they were so fast. I gave 200% when I went out on the bike to recover this gap that we lost and we did. It's impressive what Yamaha as a factory team and a family did after so many years and I'm proud of Nakasuga-san that he rode out the first Suzuka8hours with us and also of Bradley, that we share a pit box in MotoGP. Normally we have many activities and we don't get to speak often as friends. This weekend was so good for us. I'm happy because I found two great friends, and we got the 8 hours Suzuka race victory."



Bradley Smith

"Since Tuesday night I went back to my hotel room and felt loaded up with pressure. We stood in front of all the Yamaha staff and mister Kimura and everyone who works inside the factory. We stood on the stage in Iwata and promised that we would come back and give our best and we promised them a first place and we definitely to potentially fail, but we had a great bike and teammates. We had only one small mistake during the race, which in the end was no problem at all. With the speed and the pace that my teammates were able to do, we were able to overcome it. It's very special, the 60th anniversary for Yamaha, they are leading the MotoGP championship, but second to that was a focus to on the Suzuka8H and I'm glad that we were able to show the true potential of this bike and give them that victory after 19 years that they very well deserve."



Wataru Yoshikawa
Team Manager

"First, I just want to thank everyone involved and all of the fans who cheered us on. I have to say that I was

really impressed by the high level of the MotoGP riders, and also I found myself full of admiration once again for Nakasuga's skills. Pol and Bradley had never ridden at Suzuka before our pre-race test sessions, and they had never ridden on an Endurance spec machine. But, in no time at all, they were running very fast lap times here, one after another. Also, in today's race we were surprised to see the impeccable skill with which Nakasuga handled the bike in the first stint and extend it all the way to the 28th lap. That made things easier for us as a team from that point onward. The way the characters of the three riders came together so well made this a wonderful team, and the team staff did their best the whole time to back up the riders. During the race weekend there were accidents like Pol's crash, and then in the race there was his penalty, so there were difficulties along the way but we still managed to win. This was a victory that the whole team won together, and once again I want to express my appreciation to all of the people who cheered us on.
