



29/04/2016. INFO PRESENTATION - PECCO BAGNAIA BIOGRAPHY

Pecco Bagnaia Biography



FRANCESCO BAGNAIA #21

Date of birth: 14/01/97 – Turín – Italy

Age: 19

First Grand Prix: Moto3 Grand Prix of Qatar - 2013

First victory: --

Last victory: --

First pole: --

First fastest lap: Moto3 Grand Prix of France – (2014)

First podium: Moto3 Grand Prix of France – (2015)

Victories: --

Poles: --

Fastest laps: 2 (Moto3)

Podiums: 3 (Moto3)

Best championship finish: 14th World Championship Moto3 - 2015

Total GP appearances: 55 (Moto3)

SPORTING CAREER

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2009: European MiniGP Champion – Italian MiniGP Championship runner-up

2010: 125cc PreGP Mediterranean Championship runner-up

3rd in 125 PreGP Catalan Championship

2011: 3rd in 125cc Spanish Championship

2012: 3rd in Moto3 Spanish Championship Championship

2013: Moto3 World Championship debut

2014: 16th in Moto3 World Championship

2015: 14th in Moto3 World Championship

BIOGRAPHY

Francesco Bagnaia, known affectionately to his friends as 'Pecco', is one of the most exciting young racing talents to emerge from Italy in recent times. Originally hailing from Turin, he now lives with his parents and two siblings in Chivasso, a small town some twenty kilometres from the capital of the Piamonte region. His father works for an accessory company, as does his mother, and together they form a tight family unit.

Like most young racers, Pecco fell in love with motorcycles watching his father compete alongside his uncle in amateur championships. On the occasion of his sixth Christmas, Santa brought Pecco a 50cc Beta motocross bike, which he would gleefully ride on wasteland close to the family home. At the age of eight he received his first race bike, a minimoto that he took along to the Italian Championship – a series he qualified for at the first attempt and would continue racing in until the age of ten.

2009 was a year of change – a slightly bigger bike with gears. He won his first 50cc race on the ZPF in Viterbo, finishing runner-up in the Italian Championship but taking the title in the three-round European Championship. It became clear that if he wanted to take the next step and compete against the best young riders on the continent he would have to turn to Spain and in 2010 he focused his activities on the Iberian Peninsula, under the guidance of Emilio Alzamora. Whilst he continued to live in Italy he made frequent trips across the Mediterranean to race, taking third place in the Catalan Championship and finishing as runner-up in the Mediterranean Championship.

After stepping up to the Metrakit PreGP 125cc class in 2010, the moment arrived for him to truly test his mettle as a potential Grand Prix rider, as he made his debut in the Spanish Championship. He certainly didn't look out of place, finishing third in the championship in both 2011 and 2012 as he collected five podiums, including two victories. Those two seasons also served as a major learning experience as he first competed on a two-stroke 125cc Aprilia before making the switch to the four-stroke Moto3.

His achievements in the CEV did not go unnoticed back in his native country and the Italian Federation swooped for his signature to contest the Moto3 World Championship with Team Italia in 2013. It was a typically tough debut season for Pecco, a season of adaptation, learning and experience. However, his riding caught the attention of national hero Valentino Rossi, who headhunted Pecco for his VR46 Academy. In 2014 he lined up on the grid in the distinctive and powerful black colours of the Sky Racing Team VR46.

That second season as a World Championship rider was going well up until a crash in warm-up for the Dutch TT that left Pecco with a broken wrist and out of action for a number of races. It was a cruel setback that did not deny Pecco the chance to build on his fourth place finish and circuit record at Le Mans early in the season. At the same circuit, the Italian reached his first ever Moto3 podium in 2015, a third place.

Nowadays Pecco lives in Pesaro, close to the Valentino Rossi Ranch – a unique training facility that gives young Italian riders a magical opportunity to ride dirt-track alongside a legend of the sport whilst also completing a rigorous physical training programme. Amongst all those determined young faces at the ranch, Pecco Bagnaia is the 'boy next door.' He keeps his feet on the ground and does his talking on the track.

FRANCESCO 'PECCO' BAGNAIA #21 - PERSONAL

WEIGHT: 60 kg

HEIGHT: 174 cm

BIRTH PLACE: Turin

FAVOURITE WOMAN'S NAME: Georgia

FAVOURITE BOOK: I like biographies - 'Open' by Andre Agassi, for example.

FAVOURITE FILM: 'I Am Legend'

FAVORITE ACTRESS: Jennifer Aniston

FAVOURITE ACTOR: Will Smith and Adam Sandler

FAVOURITE SONG, SINGER OR GROUP: 30 Seconds to Mars

FAVOURITE CAR: BMW – M4

FAVOURITE BIKE: Ducati Panigale

FIRST BIKE: Beta 50cc

FAVOURITE FOOD: Lasagna

FAVOURITE ANIMAL: Dog

FAVOURITE COLOUR: Red

FAVOURITE NUMBER: 21

FAVOURITE DAY: Winning the CEV race at Barcelona in 2012 by 0.003 seconds from Álex Márquez.

FAVOURITE SEASON: Spring.

FAVOURITE ANECDOTE: --

BIGGEST RIVAL: Every Moto3 rider.

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Santo Domingo

SEA OR MOUNTAIN: Sea

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Cycling and F1

FAVOURITE SPORTSPERSON: Usain Bolt. I read his book and I loved it.

TV, RADIO, PRESS OR INTERNET: TV

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER: When I got the call from the VR46 Academy in 2013

A MOMENT TO FORGET: Breaking my wrist at Assen in 2014

3 THINGS TO TAKE TO A DESERT ISLAND: Girls, friends and a motorcycle.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN IF YOU WEREN'T A RIDER?: A chef. I love to cook at home and like any true Italian my speciality is pasta!

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO IN THE FUTURE?: Win.

YOUR HOBBIES: I like to go to the local karting circuit with my friends to race minimotos.

FAVOURITE CIRCUIT AND WHY: Phillip Island, Barcelona and Mugello; they are the nicest tracks on the calendar.

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