



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt – 7 November 2021

Bagnaia and Michelin conquer the Rollercoaster

- Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) takes victory in Portimao
- Bagnaia sets new all-time lap record of 1'38.725 in Q2

Francesco Bagnaia was on top form this weekend and used his MICHELIN Power Slicks to great effect in the Grande Prémio Brembo do Algarve, as he led from start to finish to take first place at the Autodromo Internacional do Algarve. Following in his wake were Joan Mir (Team Suzuki Ecstar) and Jack Miller (Ducati Lenovo Team) who came home in second and third places respectively, in a race cut to 23 laps due to a red flag incident.

Sunny and dry weather during the weekend meant that the riders and teams were able to use every Free Practice session to do plenty of laps to help make the optimum slick tyre choice ahead of the race.

Lining-up on the grid, all riders chose the Medium front tyre but there was a 50/50 split for the rear option with half going for the Medium in the hope of taking advantage of the quicker warm-up and grip in the early part of the race, and the other half selecting the Hard.

On Friday, Fabio Quartararo (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) threw down the gauntlet and topped the time sheets at the end of the day with a lap time of 1'39.390 set in FP2 on Medium front and Soft rear compound slicks.

In FP3 on Saturday morning with the riders battling for the 10 direct-access places in Q2, a cold wind made finding the optimum bike set-up difficult. However, despite this Bagnaia set a best time of 1'39.202, which was just 0.0001 seconds ahead of Quartararo's time in second place – with both riders using Soft front and rear MICHELIN Power slicks. In this session, just 1.162 seconds covered the top 20 riders.

Qualifying in the afternoon saw higher temperatures, and lap times dropped as a result with Bagnaia taking pole position, and in the process setting the new all-time circuit lap record. Completing the front row of the grid were his Ducati team-mate Miller and Suzuki's Mir.

Speaking after the weekend, Piero Taramasso, Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager, said: "This was a complicated weekend for the teams with the cold wind keeping track temperatures low and the elevation changes of the circuit meaning the tyres were constantly loaded and unloaded during each lap, making it difficult



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for the riders to maintain tyre temperatures. However, despite this I was very happy with the lap times and the closeness of the times in the Free Practice sessions, as shown by the new all-time circuit lap record set by Pecco.

“Thankfully the cold wind dropped today and the tyre performance during the race was good and very consistent. In addition, with two of our different rear options being chosen in an equal split across the grid, it highlights the versatility and accessible performance of the tyre allocation for the different riders and constructors”.

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