

MICHELIN AND MARQUEZ MASTER A SIZZLING SACHSENRING

Michelin saw high temperatures try to play their part at Sachsenring in Germany today as Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team) gave an accomplished performance to take victory during the Pramac Motorrad Grand Prix Deutschland as the Michelin tyres produced a durable and consistent race to conquer the German track.

This weekend's event at the 3,671m Sachsenring circuit has witnessed high track temperatures which culminated in the asphalt hitting 46°C as today's 30-lap race got underway. These unexpected highs put the full range of MICHELIN Power Slick tyres under intense scrutiny as the rubber had to cope with conditions which were not anticipated when the Michelin team had to choose this weekend's allocation before the season started, but with the knowledge and data secured from last year's event the team produced a compound selection that was suitable for all.

As today's race began, five of the six slick tyres were in use in various pairings, with only the hard rear being unused. Marquez lined up with a hard front and soft rear compound tyre at the front of the grid, after he set pole position yesterday as he recorded the fastest-ever two-wheel lap of Sachsenring. As the lights changed to signal go, Jorge Lorenzo (Ducati Team) got off the line quickly and led for the first lap, the Spaniard had a soft front and medium rear and tried to push hard at the start to make a break. He maintained his lead for 12-laps with Marquez in close proximity, but on lap-13 the reigning World Champion made his move and took first place, a position he never relinquished and took the chequered flag to secure his ninth successive victory at Sachsenring and record the fastest lap of the race in the process on lap-22.

The battle for the remaining podium places excited the 89,242 fans at trackside as Valentino Rossi (Movistar Yamaha MotoGP) came from sixth on the grid to take second using a pairing of medium front and rear tyres, whilst his team-mate Maverick Viñales (Movistar Yamaha MotoGP) took third with a medium front and soft rear, again the podium demonstrated the different combination of MICHELIN Power Slicks which can be used by different riders to give them optimum performance. Danilo Petrucci (Alma Pramac Racing) was fourth and also took the position of First Independent Rider. Alvaro Bautista (Angel Nieto Team) produced his best result of the season so far to secure fifth, with Lorenzo crossing the line in sixth. Seventh was Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati Team) and eighth went to Dani Pedrosa (Repsol Honda Team), who earlier this weekend announced he will be retiring at the end of the season. Ninth was Johann Zarco (Monster Yamaha Tech 3), with Bradley Smith (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) also taking his best result so far this year as he rounded out the top-ten.

Michelin and the whole paddock now takes a mid-season break to recharge in readiness for this year's 10 remaining races, with the Brno Grand Prix in the Czech Republic restarting the championship on Sunday 5th August.



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Marc Marquez – Repsol Honda Team:

“The race was very good here today, you can say ok it was another victory in Sachsenring, but it was not just another victory. This year we suffered a little bit because all weekend we had good weather and every rider and every team were able to work with all the tyres to make the best set-up and best compromise and as we saw in the race there were many different options of the front and the rear. I think we chose the best ones for us because I felt really good with the hard front and the soft rear and honestly speaking the tyres were more consistent in the race than I expected, because here it is very demanding, especially on the left side. The tyres worked very good, very consistent and I was able to make the fastest lap on lap-22, so that was even better than I expected.”

Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:

“It has been a very demanding weekend for all the tyres as it has been so much hotter here at Sachsenring than we had planned for. Nearly every session was twice the temperature it had been last season, but the selection we brought coped very well with these extremes and during all the practice and qualifying sessions the top rider produced a time faster in each session than we had in corresponding years. Marc also produced the fastest-ever lap of Sachsenring on Saturday in qualifying, so this was very pleasing. There was again a mixed selection between the riders during the race, with all of the podium having a different combination on their bikes. We have had some difficult conditions to contend with in the first part of the season and are now looking forward to a short break so we can go into the second half refreshed. We return at Brno, where there will also be a post-race test where we have some new tyres to assess in readiness for 2019.”



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