



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt – 10 April 2022

## Record Breaking Weekend in Austin

- Enea Bastianini (Gresini Racing MotoGP) wins the Red Bull Grand Prix of the Americas
- Jorge Martin (Pramac Racing) sets new all-time circuit lap record of 2'02.039
- Bastianini sets new race lap record of 2'03.521
- New race duration record of 41'23.111

Enea Bastianini was crowned the new King of COTA this weekend after crossing the line to take victory in the fourth round of the MotoGP™ World Championship at the Red Bull Grand Prix of the Americas in Austin, Texas. In second place was Alex Rins (Team Suzuki Ecstar), followed by Jack Miller (Ducati Lenovo Team) who took the final place on the podium.

Race tyre choice was Hard front and Soft rear MICHELIN Power Slicks for almost all of the riders, with just two KTM riders opting for the Medium rear, hoping to profit from the harder tyre's performance in the later stages of the race.

Using the consistent grip of his tyres, Bastianini set very fast lap times throughout the race, culminating in a new race lap record time of 2'03.521 on lap 14.

The Free Practice sessions on Friday gave the riders their first taste on the new track surface which was laid to try to eradicate the bumps that caused the riders numerous problems in 2021. While the severity of the bumps was reduced, the new asphalt was green and needed time to get a coating of rubber and improve grip levels. In FP1 the riders chose Soft front and Medium rear MICHELIN Power Slick tyres, but in FP2 when temperatures had increased, a variety of compounds saw the lap times drop to a best of 2'02.542 set by Johann Zarco (Pramac Racing) using a Hard front and Soft rear.

Saturday mirrored Friday in terms of track temperature evolution, with a cool FP3 to kick-off the day followed by a much warmer FP4 and Qualifying in the afternoon. FP3 started with some teams doing longer runs on worn tyres, and this was followed by time-attacks to try to secure a direct place in Q2, with the majority using new Soft compound tyres front and rear.

Qualifying was as competitive as ever, with the riders pushing the limits of machine and tyres to get the best start positions for the race. At the final reckoning in Q2, Jorge Martin took pole with a lap time of 2'02.039, setting a new all-time



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circuit lap record in the process and beating the previous record which had stood since 2015. Ducati Lenovo Team team-mates Jack Miller and Francesco Bagnaia completed the front row, with all riders using the outright grip and stability of the Hard front and Soft rear tyres.

Commenting after the race, Piero Taramasso, Michelin Two-Wheel Motorsport Manager, said: "This was another interesting weekend for us due to the new track surface between Turns 2 and 10, and Turns 12 to 15 but the tyre allocation worked very well. It allowed the riders to post fast lap times from day one, and this was further highlighted by the fact that two riders beat the previous all-time lap record during Q2.

"During the race, the windy conditions added to the challenge for the riders, but the consistent grip of the tyres from start to finish meant that the fans were treated to a thrilling race. The icing on the cake for us being the new all-time circuit lap record, the new race lap record, and the new race duration record – beating the previous best race time by almost 20 seconds."

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