

MICHELIN BREAKS RECORDS AS VIÑALES IS VICTORIOUS

Michelin witnessed its range of MotoGP™ tyres break many records this weekend at the Sepang International Circuit as Maverick Viñales (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) raced to a dominant victory today in the Shell Malaysia Motorcycle Grand Prix.

A weekend of warm sunshine and almost ideal track conditions, with only the occasional spot of rain, produced very fast lap-times throughout practice and qualifying. The overall lap-record was broken on Friday and Saturday, initially by Fabio Quartararo (Petronas Yamaha SRT), before a number of other riders bettered the time and culminated with the Frenchman setting a new outright best - and in the process a new pole record - on Saturday afternoon to take Pole Position for Sunday's 20-lap race, as the top-six all recorded times better than the record which stood before the weekend commenced. With Quartararo on pole, Viñales started from second on the grid, but it was Jack Miller (Pramac Racing) that got the holeshot and led into the first corner, before being passed by Viñales - using a pairing of medium compound MICHELIN Power Slick tyres - as he took the lead and stayed there for the remainder of the race. His time of 40'14.632 was almost 18-seconds quicker than last year's record, as he used the performance of the MICHELIN Slick tyres to take nearly a second a lap off the record duration time during the race.

Joining Viñales on the podium was Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team), who - after crashing heavily in Qualifying - started from 11th on the grid. The 2019 World Champion made his way through the field, with his choice of medium front compound and soft rear, to score his 17th podium of the season. Third went to Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati Team), with another different configuration of soft front and rear MICHELIN Power Slicks, as he raced through the pack from tenth on the grid. This top-three again gave Michelin three different manufacturers taking the spoils, all using a different array of tyres on their respective machines.

A huge crowd of 103,850 filled the impressive grandstands around the Malaysian circuit and witnessed Valentino Rossi (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) come home in fourth, setting a new race lap-record for himself and Michelin in the process. His time of 1'59.661 was almost a second under the existing best and the first sub-1'59 recorded in a two-wheeled race at Sepang. Alex Rins (Team SUZUKI ECSTAR) took fifth, with Franco Morbidelli (Petronas Yamaha SRT) taking sixth and the honour of First Independent rider, his team-mate Quartararo followed him home for seventh, a result which gave the Petronas Yamaha SRT outfit the Independent Team title in its first year in the MotoGP championship. Eighth was Miller, with Danilo Petrucci (Ducati Team) in ninth. Joan Mir (Team SUZUKI ECSTAR) rounded out the top-10. Of the six compounds available for today's race, four were used, with both the hard front and rear MICHELIN Power Slick tyres not being utilised as track temperatures only reached 44°C, a bit lower than is usually experienced at Sepang.

Despite the impressive results, this weekend's proceedings were overshadowed by the untimely death of 20-year-old Indonesian rider Afridza Munandar during Saturday's Idemitsu Asia Talent Cup race at Sepang. Michelin would like to offer its condolences to his family, friends, the IATC team and the wider racing community during this sad time.

Michelin now returns to Europe where it will analyse the information from the unique rear tyre test held during the Phillip Island race weekend in Australia, before regrouping and heading to Valencia in Spain for the final race of 2019 on Sunday 17th November, and then remaining at the Spanish circuit for a two-day test which signals the start of the 2020 season.



Maverick Viñales - Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP:

“We did a great job with the tyres from FP1 onwards and we understood from the test which tyre was going to work for the race. So, this weekend we worked very hard with Pascal - our guy from Michelin - to understand how to save the tyre for the race and get the best from it. I would like to congratulate Michelin and Pascal, because they always collaborate with us to improve and to be better on the bike.”

Piero Taramasso - Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:

“This has been an ideal weekend to finish off a busy time with the fly-away races. We saw our tyres produce some excellent performances as we set the fastest outright lap, new pole and race lap records and a new race duration best. This is another indication of the performance the MICHELIN Power Slick tyres are giving the riders and with three different manufacturers, using three different configurations on the podium, it is another positive aspect and indication of what we are constantly trying to achieve. We have had four races in five weekends and have had to take on many different conditions, but we are pleased with the tour as a whole, because we have seen good, close, competitive racing, with the tyres giving consistent and fast performances at all the racetracks. Sometimes the weather was against us, but even in the most difficult of conditions the riders were able to use our tyres to give them the confidence they needed. We now head back to France, before we go to Spain for the final race of the year and then begin the preparation for 2020.”



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