

After a lowly seventh in race one

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The Yamaha Motor France pairing of Norick Abe Ansa

THE CALENDAR

7 EVENT AND FOURTEENTH RESPECTIVELY were all Régis and James could manage in a windy race 1 after starting from rows 2 and 3 of the grid as Corser (Suzuki) took the win. "I never had to ride so hard to stay on the bike because the front was just going away all the time" declared Laconi. "I lost it five times at the same place at 220 kph because of the wind or the tyres, I don't know which. It was so crazy that I couldn't even stay on the bike and I just did the best I could do. I passed everyone to move up to fourth and thought I was OK but then it was so difficult because after 6 or 7 laps the bike was just so hard to ride". Toseland instead had problems with his rear tyre, which prevented him from making an impact on the race after just a few laps. "I got a bad start and almost went off at the first corner and that dropped me down to fifteenth. After that I just started to lose grip very early on and that was it for my race" he declared.

22 RACE 2 WAS RED-FLAGGED FOR RAIN after just over half-distance, with Laconi four seconds behind Corser in second place. In the final ten laps, which were run on full wets, Laconi did his best to maintain that position but had a nasty moment when he lost control of the rear of his 999 at Lukey Heights and crashed. The Frenchman was able to restart but eventually finished seventh overall. "I made a good start and had a good first lap to be immediately up with the leaders. Troy was a bit faster than me but I kept second place well. I was happy because we changed the bike totally from the first race and now it was so good, so thanks to my team for giving me something different for the second race. I started to ride it in the wet but the rear shock was too hard and after three laps the rear tyre was finished. When I crashed, the rear went away and I made a big highside. I restarted the bike with the starter and got back.

Yamaha riders tough it out

A challenging day for the Yamaha Motor Italia squad saw Andrew Pitt's fifth become the highlight of the weekend, as he crashed out in race two

■ Black Jeremy da New York

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In the second race a harsh fall of rain stopped the race the contest had reached the two

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La sintesi

Weather Can't Keep Corser Down

Race 1: Troy Corser took the lead into the first corner and kept it for all 22 laps of the race, winning by a margin of 8.279 seconds, from his own team-mate, Yukio Kagayama. The fight for third place, which was to be determined some 12.551 seconds down on Corser at the flag, was a seven rider battle at one stage, as early

runner Andrew Pitt (Yamaha Motor Italia) eventually faded from his impressive start to finish fifth, behind an awesome fight between Chris Vermeulen (Winston Ten Kate Honda) and Max Neukirchner (Klaffi Honda). Touching fairings at one stage, the pair battled it out right to the very end, with Vermeulen scoring the podium, but Neukirchner covering himself in glory. The 21-year-old German's success was consolation for his Klaffi Honda team, as their lead rider Pierfrancesco Chili suffered a broken collarbone on Saturday.

Race 2: In the second race, a harsh fall of rain stopped the race, and as the contest had not yet reached the two thirds stage, a second leg was called. This second ten lap race was run under 'wet' rules, with the aggregate leaders from the first race being Troy Corser, Regis Laconi (Ducati Xerox) and Max Neukirchner. Corser, leading for a period, was re-passed by Kagayama, but won the aggregate race by 5.822 seconds, from his Japanese team-mate. Third, on the track and on aggregate, was German sensation, Max Neukirchner, his first podium score in

only his fourth-ever World Superbike race. Off Podium Fights: Chris Vermeulen (Winston Ten Kate Honda CBR1000RR) ended the day in fourth place in the championship fight, after a fourth in race two and fifth in race one. Starting from row three these were impressive results, and unlike many other riders, he was to finish both races. His team-mate Karl Muggeridge, finished eighth in race one, but fell in race two - after a collision with fellow crasher world champion James Toseland (Xerox Ducati). **Laconi Battles Hard:** After a lowly seventh in

race one, Regis Laconi (Ducati Xerox) looked on course for a second place finish in the re-run. When the rains came, he had to make an acrobatic save of a potential high side approaching Lukey Heights, fell from his Ducati, and then bravely restarted, to finish his day with a pair of seventh places. His team-mate Toseland had an even tougher day, finishing race one only 14th, after a bad start and some grip issues throughout. After his second race tangle with Muggeridge at the hairpin, he slipped to eighth in the championship, on 22 points.