

2013 AT A GLANCE

-  **1** PHILLIP ISLAND
AUSTRALIA
FEBRUARY 24

-  **2** MOTORLAND ARAGON
ARAGON
APRIL 14

-  **3** ASSEN
THE NETHERLANDS
APRIL 28

-  **4** MONZA
ITALY
MAY 12

-  **5** DONINGTON
EUROPE
MAY 26

-  **6** PORTIMÃO
PORTUGAL
JUNE 9

-  **7** IMOLA
ITALY
JUNE 30

-  **8** MOSCOW RACEWAY
RUSSIA
JULY 21

-  **9** SILVERSTONE
UNITED KINGDOM
AUGUST 4

-  **10** NÜRBURGRING
GERMANY
SEPTEMBER 1

-  **11** INTERCITY ISTANBUL
TURKEY
SEPTEMBER 15

-  **12** LAGUNA SECA
USA
SEPTEMBER 29

-  **13** MAGNY-COURS
FRANCE
OCTOBER 6

-  **14** JEREZ
SPAIN
OCTOBER 20

-  **15** BUDDH INTERNATIONAL
INDIA
NOVEMBER 17



LAVERTY PLAYS IT COOL

Eugene Laverty is refusing to get carried away after forcing his way back into contention for the eni FIM Superbike World Championship title ahead of this week's round at Imola.

The Aprilia rider has had more non-finishes than anyone in the top eight in the standings, but his race two victory at Portimao left him third in the points, 39 behind leader and team-mate Sylvain Guintoli.

The 27-year-old's tally of four wins is also the highest, and Laverty hopes he can enjoy a consistent run of strong results to keep him in the title battle.

He said: "I'm not one to complain about bad luck. The important thing is to always start off with sights set high and to strike back when hard luck strikes. I

was really trying hard for the win in Portimão, and I'm pleased to have been able to do it dominating from the first to the last lap. I'm in the running for the championship even with a few too many races with no points, but we are growing race by race, and I'm confident about the upcoming rounds."

While Laverty is a title contender, 2011 champion Carlos Checa is languishing off the pace. This has been Ducati's worst start to a season since the inception of the championship back in 1988, and the Spaniard is back in 13th place on his Team Ducati Alstare 1199 Panigale R.

But Imola would appear to offer a glimmer of hope, with Checa having won five of the last six races here. The 40-year-old does not expect to repeat those results this weekend, but is hopeful of an improvement in his fortunes.

He said: "Before winning, we must close the gap with our rivals. Imola will be good opportunity to get closer. I really like the track. It is quite technical with heavy braking, uphill and downhill sections and many chicanes."



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IRON BRAIN has become Official Sponsor of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship for the rounds of Imola, Istanbul and Jerez.

The sponsorship is based on the spirit of surprise and innovation. IRON BRAIN invites

all spectators to the Superbike Village "to scrap the past", thanks to an ecological machine that scraps the usual drinks. Anyone who chooses to say goodbye to the past, will receive for free Iron Brain to try the "taste of the future". The machine is located close to the stand, within a 7-metre-high inflatable can of Iron Brain... impossible to miss!

There'll be also another unexpected surprise waiting, and that's the only clue we give you about it: cutting-edge technology from the frontiers of science fiction.

SUPERSPORT 
FIM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Kenan Sofuoglu is confident he has the best package in the FIM Supersport World Championship, and is ready to get his title tilt back on track at Imola. The Turk has had to watch Britain's Sam Lowes win the last four races to open a 39-point lead, but Sofuoglu said: "From now on the real fight starts for me. I have all the support from Kawasaki and even though we're still not able to take full potential from the ZX-6R, I know we have the best 600cc bike."



SUPERSTOCK 1000 
FIM CUP

Imola will see the latest instalment in the wide-open battle for the Superstock 1000 FIM Cup. There have been four different race winners in four rounds so far, with BMW Motorrad Goldbet rider Sylvain Barrier (below) holding a one-point lead thanks to his victory last time out at Portimão in Portugal. Barni Racing teammates Eddi La Marra and Niccolò Canepa sit second and third, one point and seven points adrift of Barrier respectively.



SUPERSTOCK 600 
UEM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Franco Morbidelli hopes to build on his maiden UEM European Superstock 600 Championship victory when he races on home soil at Imola this weekend. The San Carlo Team Italia rider won in Portugal, and said: "I know Imola very well as I've been racing in the Italian championship for several years now. We did a pre-season test there and, although the weather was not good, we were able to get some data for the upcoming round."



NEW RULES AIM TO REDUCE BIKE COST

A new set of technical rules is to be introduced in the eni FIM Superbike World Championship, starting next year. The FIM, rights holders Dorna and the Motorcycle Sports Manufacturers' Association have agreed the new framework, which will be applied in three stages.

The aim is to reduce costs and fix a maximum price for the bike and its components, to be reduced every year for the next three years. A maximum number of engines per rider each season will be introduced, and other areas of cost reduction will include suspension, brakes and gearbox ratios.

Constructors in the eni FIM Superbike World Championship agreed to have a minimum number of motorcycles with the same state of tuning available for sale or lease. A draft of the new technical rules is to be published soon.

UNLUCKY TALMACSI OUT FOR MONTHS

Hungarian racer Gabor Talmacsi was left bemoaning his bad luck after being injured by a freak technical problem on his Prorace Honda during the FIM Supersport World Championship race at Portimão.

"I don't know what to say," said a disappointed Talmacsi. "I don't think anyone on the grid has had as much bad luck as my team and me. The engine exploded on the 12th lap, and it hit my left leg, which broke."

Talmacsi was flown home to Hungary where, after numerous tests, doctors decided to go ahead with surgery to help him recover more quickly. A series of screws and plates were inserted during the three-hour surgery by Dr Varga Marcell, but the former world 125cc champion is expected to be away from racing for several months.

SUPPORT FOR INJURED ALESSIA

The eni FIM Superbike World Championship community have sent messages of support to Italian bike racer Alessia Polita after she suffered a serious crash.

The 27-year-old, twice a national champion, was involved in a dramatic crash during the first qualifying session for the Italian Superstock 600 event at Misano. She was transferred to Cesena's Bufalini hospital, where she underwent a neurosurgical operation on a broken 12th vertebra, which was carried out successfully, although a spinal cord injury was confirmed.

Polita took part in qualifying for the Italian round of the FIM Supersport World Championship at Monza last month as a substitute rider for Team VFT Racing. She is the sister of former Superstock 1000 FIM Cup champion Alessandro Polita.

BRITS LEADING THE NUMBERS GAME

Sylvain Guintoli may be leading the eni FIM Superbike World Championship after six rounds, but French riders are not having it all their own way.

If the riders were to put aside team leathers and ride instead for a 'national team', France would only be in third place.

British riders, led by Tom Sykes, currently lead the way with a total of 514 points from five riders. No fewer than nine Italian riders have scored points so far this season, with Marco Melandri's 156 the biggest contributor to their tally of 454 points.

Then come France. Guintoli has 213 points so far, but he has only two compatriots in the championship, Loris Baz and Jules Cluzel contributing to a total of 404. That is the best average, though, at more than 134 points per rider.

MAX TARGETING A CLIMB IN RANKINGS

It may come as a surprise to see Max Neukirchner leading the Ducati ranks in the eni FIM Superbike World Championship, but he wants to achieve even more. The German returned to the series this season after two years in the Moto2 World Championship, and has shown he has lost none of the speed that made him a double race winner earlier in his career.

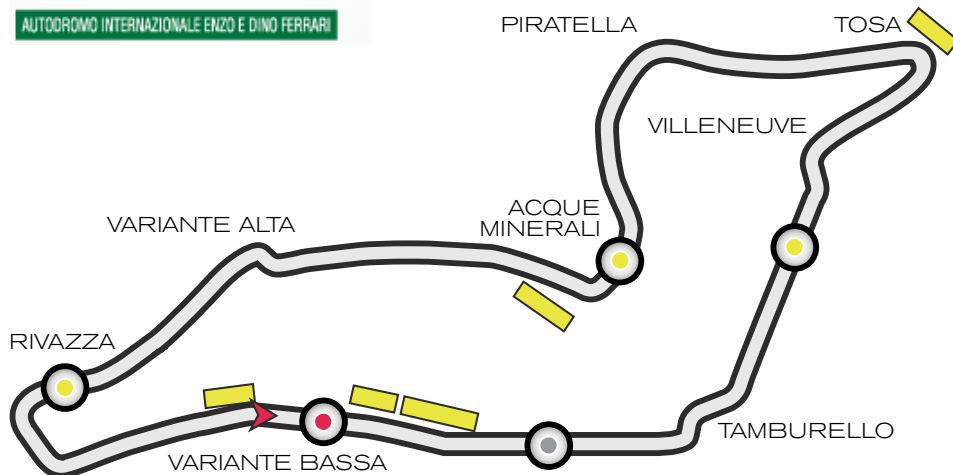
But the 30-year-old is hoping to improve on his current 12th place. He said: "We are unhappy with some things. The three main points would be engine output, suspension and electronics, but I am confident to be better in those areas by the end of the year. At the moment we cross the line between 10th and 15th, but our target would be eighth to 10th. This would make us happy, that's where we want to be for now."



CIRCUIT GUIDE: IMOLA

IMOLA

AUTODROMO INTERNAZIONALE ENZO E DINO FERRARI



LAST TIME

PORTIMÃO 09.06.13

RACE ONE (22 laps)

1	Marco Melandri	BMW	38'12.447
2	Sylvain Guintoli	Aprilia	@0.007
3	Tom Sykes	Kawasaki	@4.224
4	Leon Camier	Suzuki	@9.479
5	Loris Baz	Kawasaki	@12.057
6	Chaz Davies	BMW	@16.610
7	Michel Fabrizio	Aprilia	@21.350
8	Jules Cluzel	Suzuki	@22.337
9	Carlos Checa	Ducati	@23.662
10	Federico Sandi	Kawasaki	@1'26.995
11	Vittorio Iannuzzo	BMW	@1'27.119
12	Ivan Clementi	BMW	@1'29.096
13	Max Neukirchner	Ducati	@3 laps
Ret	Ayrton Badovini	Ducati	@3 laps
Ret	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia	@11 laps
Ret	Leon Haslam	Honda	@13 laps
Ret	Jonathan Rea	Honda	@14 laps
Ret	Alexander Lundh	Kawasaki	@16 laps
Ret	Davide Giugliano	Aprilia	@17 laps

RACE TWO (22 laps)

1	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia	38'02.051
2	Sylvain Guintoli	Aprilia	@4.107
3	Jonathan Rea	Honda	@5.853
4	Loris Baz	Kawasaki	@15.306
5	Chaz Davies	BMW	@17.552
6	Carlos Checa	Ducati	@18.366
7	Jules Cluzel	Suzuki	@29.392
8	Ayrton Badovini	Ducati	@38.359
9	Davide Giugliano	Aprilia	@39.321
10	Michel Fabrizio	Aprilia	@44.603
11	Max Neukirchner	Ducati	@45.339
12	Marco Melandri	BMW	@45.429
13	Federico Sandi	Kawasaki	@1'16.310
14	Alexander Lundh	Kawasaki	@1'16.375
15	Vittorio Iannuzzo	BMW	@1'18.303
16	Ivan Clementi	BMW	@1'24.259
NC	Tom Sykes	Kawasaki	@7 laps
Ret	Leon Camier	Suzuki	@11 laps

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

WORLD SUPERBIKE

1	Sylvain Guintoli	FRA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	213
2	Tom Sykes	GBR	Kawasaki ZX-10R	185
3	Eugene Laverty	IRL	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	174
4	Marco Melandri	ITA	BMW S1000 RR	156
5	Chaz Davies	GBR	BMW S1000 RR	133
6	Loris Baz	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-10R	119
7	Jonathan Rea	GBR	Honda CBR1000RR	105
8	Michel Fabrizio	FRA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	101
9	Davide Giugliano	ITA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	79
10	Jules Cluzel	FRA	Suzuki GSX-R1000	72
11	Leon Camier	GBR	Suzuki GSX-R1000	62
12	Max Neukirchner	GER	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	53
13	Carlos Checa	ESP	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	50
14	Ayrton Badovini	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	45
15	Leon Haslam	GBR	Honda CBR1000RR	29

WORLD SUPERSPORT

1	Sam Lowes	GBR	Yamaha YZF R6	120
2=	Kenan Sofuoglu	TUR	Kawasaki ZX-6R	81
2=	Fabien Foret	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-6R	81
4	Michael van der Mark	NED	Honda CBR600RR	62
5	Lorenzo Zanetti	ITA	Honda CBR600RR	55

SUPERSTOCK 1000

1	Sylvain Barrier	FRA	BMW S1000 RR HP4	70
2	Eddi La Marra	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	69
3	Niccolò Canepa	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	63
4	Jeremy Guarnoni	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-10R	60
5	Leandro Mercado	ARG	Kawasaki ZX-10R	49

