

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
RUSSIA
JULY 21
-  **9** SILVERSTONE
UNITED KINGDOM
AUGUST 4
-  **10** NÜRBURGRING
GERMANY
SEPTEMBER 1
-  **11** INTERCITY
ISTANBUL
SEPTEMBER 15
-  **12** LAGUNA SECA
USA
SEPTEMBER 29
-  **13** MAGNY-COURS
FRANCE
OCTOBER 6
-  **14** JEREZ
SPAIN
OCTOBER 20



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DORNA WSBK ORGANIZATION
Via di Tor Pagnotta 94,
00143 Rome, Italy
T +39 06 509 661
F +39 06 509 66350



Injury won't stop Guintoli dreaming of title success

Sylvain Guintoli is struggling to overcome his shoulder injury, but is refusing to give up on his bid to win the eni FIM Superbike World Championship.

The series returns to Laguna Seca for the first time since 2004 this weekend, with only the top class in action at the Californian track. Guintoli is eight points adrift of leader Tom Sykes after his Kawasaki rival took a double podium finish at the Intercity Istanbul Park.

The Briton has been the favourite to land the crown for most of the season, but Guintoli and Aprilia continue to battle away as the season heads towards another thrilling climax. While Laguna's twists and turns are unlikely to do much good for the Frenchman's shoulder, he hopes to take a step forward.

"We had two strong races, but I'm still missing something," he said.

"I'm not sure if it's speed or my physical condition. To be honest, I expected more from the race after the good practice sessions and the front row start. It wasn't a complete disaster, though, since we're

still close to Sykes and I got back onto the podium. Unfortunately my shoulder injury isn't a simple thing to overcome. On a track like that, with fast turns and crosswinds, it hurt quite a bit."

While Guintoli is fit enough to ride, there are a few of his peers who will miss out at Laguna through injury. The most notable absentee is 2011 Superbike World Champion Carlos Checa, who will be out of action for three months with a fractured pelvis, while David Salom replaces Loris Baz at Kawasaki.

Checa's place on the Alstare Ducati will be taken by Niccolò Canepa. The Italian's regular role is riding for the Barni Racing Team in the Superstock 1000 class, but he is looking forward to stepping up to the top class again after a good outing at Donington earlier in the season.

"I'm really pleased to have this opportunity. Racing at Laguna Seca with the factory Ducati is really something incredible. I'm feeling confident because Laguna should suit the Ducati well and it also happens to be one of my favourite tracks," said Canepa.

"I would thank my team manager Marco Barnabò, Ducati's SBK project manager Ernesto Marinelli and Ducati Alstare team manager Francis Batta for giving me the opportunity. It will be a busy month and I'll try to make the most of it, also with an eye on next year. I would also like to wish Carlos a speedy recovery."



TOP SPONSORS

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SUPERSPORT FIM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The FIM Supersport World Championship may not be on track this weekend, but the identity of the series champion is all but decided. Britain's Sam Lowes holds a 49-point lead over Kawasaki rider Kenan Sofuoglu with a maximum of 50 up for grabs from the remaining races at Magny-Cours and Jerez. Sofuoglu came out on top in a tense battle between the pair at his home round in Istanbul, but his rival needs just two more points to claim the crown.



SUPERSTOCK 1000 FIM CUP

Eddi La Marra's condition is continuing to improve as he recovers from his accident in testing at Misano last month. The Italian suffered head injuries as he fell from his Ducati, and underwent surgery to relieve swelling on his brain, but has now been moved to a rehabilitation unit. Mauro Barnabò, Barni Racing Team Manager, said: "After seeing Eddi, I was over the moon, as his conditions are much better and heading in the right direction."



SUPERSTOCK 600 UEM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Bastien Chesaux is adamant he can still win the Superstock 600 European Championship despite his crash at the Nurburgring. The Swiss rider was among the frontrunners in Germany, but his fall proved costly as he fell 14 points behind series leader Franco Morbidelli. He said: "It was a real shame after the very positive weekend we had in Silverstone. Now we must focus on Magny-Cours and Jerez, two important races. Everything is still possible."



RETURN TO THRILLS OF THE CORKSCREW

The eni FIM Superbike World Championship returns to Laguna Seca this weekend for the first time in nine years. The circuit near Monterey in California hosted the championship for 10 years between 1995 and 2004, when Australian rider Chris Vermeulen won both races for ten Kate Honda on the last outing there.

And it means WSBK riders will again tackle one of the most iconic sequences of corners in world motorsport – the fabled Corkscrew. Turns 8 and 8A are a tight left-hander followed by a tight right-hander, made all the more spectacular by a vertiginous drop. The downhill slope is 12% at Turn 8, steepening to 18% at Turn 8A, which sees the track drop 18m (59ft) – more than a five-storey building – in the space of only 137m (450ft) of track length.

AMA STAR YOUNG TO REPLACE LEON

Fixi Crescent Suzuki have recruited Blake Young to replace the injured Leon Camier for the Laguna Seca round of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship. The Wisconsin rider, who celebrated his 26th birthday last week, has finished runner-up in the AMA Superbike series in each of the last two years, and has featured as a MotoGP wildcard at Indianapolis and Austin this year.

Young said: "I'm really excited at the prospect of riding for Fixi Crescent Suzuki, and I can't wait to ride the bike. It was a surprise to get the call, but it will be great to go back to Laguna Seca, especially on a World Superbike."

Camier is recovering after breaking several bones in his right foot at Istanbul last time out, and aims to be fit for the final race of the season at Jerez.

GUINTOLI'S MONZA APPEAL REJECTED

Championship leader Tom Sykes will have heaved a sigh of relief when the FIM International Disciplinary Court finally rejected Sylvain Guintoli's appeal over his controversial Monza move. Race Direction had originally dropped Sykes from third to fourth, promoting Guintoli, only for stewards to cancel the decision.

Guintoli duly appealed, but the FIM said: "There was no infringement of regulations by Tom Sykes when he left the track at the entry to the La Roggia chicane, as he used the route indicated and returned to the track at the prescribed spot." Sykes currently leads by eight points from Guintoli, but that would have closed to two had their positions in race two at Monza been reversed. After missing out on the title last season by a mere half-point, Sykes is all too aware that every point counts.

EUGENE DOUBLE IN QUALITY COMPANY

Eugene Laverty's double win at Istanbul was the fourth in the eni FIM Superbike World Championship this season, following Chaz Davies at Aragón and current leader Tom Sykes at both Donington Park and Imola.

It means there have already been more double wins this season than in 2012, when Carlos Checa (Imola), Max Biaggi (Misano) and Marco Melandri (Brno) achieved the feat.

But they still have some way to go to match the exploits of the previous three seasons. Checa had no fewer than five double victories in 2011, Biaggi four in 2010 and American rider Ben Spies three in the 2009 campaign. Not surprisingly, that illustrious trio ended up winning the championship in each of those seasons.

For more news go to www.worldsbk.com

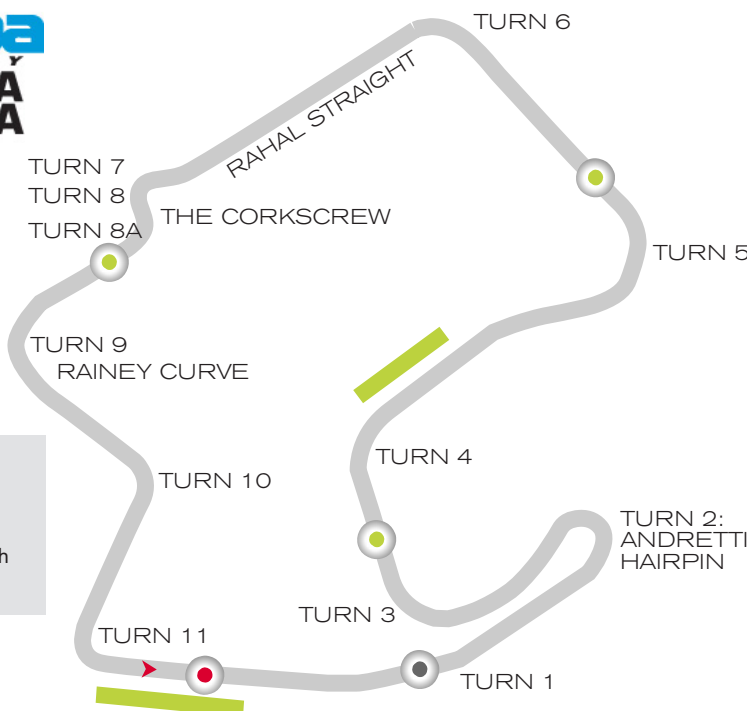
INJURED CHECA OUT FOR SEASON

Carlos Checa has been ruled out for the rest of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship season after a black weekend for Team Ducati Alstare in Istanbul. The 2011 champion was originally diagnosed with bruising and a suspected broken wrist after a practice crash, but further tests revealed a broken pelvis which will need a minimum 10-week recovery period.

Team-mate Ayrton Badovini also suffered a crash in practice, and although he was able to start race one, technical problems brought his race to a premature end and his injuries meant he was unable to start race two. With Max Neukirchner of MR-Racing also absent, it made race two in Istanbul the first time in World Superbike history – no fewer than 640 races – that there were no Ducatis on the starting grid.



CIRCUIT GUIDE: LAGUNA SECA



WEATHER FORECAST

- Fair
- Humidity: 77%
- Wind: N at 0km/h
- 13°C

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

WORLD SUPERBIKE

1	Tom Sykes	GBR	Kawasaki ZX-10R	323
2	Sylvain Guintoli	FRA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	315
3	Eugene Laverty	IRL	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	297
4	Marco Melandri	ITA	BMW S1000 RR	290
5	Chaz Davies	GBR	BMW S1000 RR	239
6	Loris Baz	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-10R	180
7	Jonathan Rea	GBR	Honda CBR1000RR	176
8	Michel Fabrizio	ITA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory/Honda CBR1000RR	168
9	Jules Cluzel	FRA	Suzuki GSX-R1000	141
10	Davide Giugliano	ITA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	139
11	Leon Camier	GBR	Suzuki GSX-R1000	114
12	Ayrton Badovini	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	107
13	Max Neukirchner	GER	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	84
14	Carlos Checa	ESP	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	80
15	Leon Haslam	GBR	Honda CBR1000RR	78

WORLD SUPERSPORT

1	Sam Lowes	GBR	Yamaha YZF R6	205
2	Kenan Sofuoglu	TUR	Kawasaki ZX-6R	156
3	Fabien Foret	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-6R	121
4	Michael van der Mark	NED	Honda CBR600RR	107
5	Lorenzo Zanetti	ITA	Honda CBR600RR	99

SUPERSTOCK 1000

1	Sylvain Barrier	FRA	BMW S1000 RR HP4	165
2	Niccolò Canepa	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale	125
3	Leandro Mercado	ARG	Kawasaki ZX-10R	115
4	Jeremy Guarnoni	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-10R	103
5	Eddi La Marra	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale	85

LAST TIME

ISTANBUL 15.09.13

RACE ONE (18 laps)

1	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia	34'57.650
2	Marco Melandri	BMW	@2.009
3	Tom Sykes	Kawasaki	@3.432
4	Sylvain Guintoli	Aprilia	@3.919
5	Davide Giugliano	Aprilia	@15.830
6	Toni Elias	Aprilia	@15.945
7	Jules Cluzel	Suzuki	@16.921
8	Chaz Davies	BMW	@21.491
9	Leon Haslam	Honda	@40.186
10	Michel Fabrizio	Honda	@40.218
11	Federico Sandi	Kawasaki	@41.700
12	Vittorio Iannuzzo	BMW	@1'39.549
13	Tolga Uprak	Kawasaki	@1 lap
14	Yunus Ercelik	BMW	@1 lap
Ret	Mark Aitchison	Kawasaki	@8 laps
Ret	Ayrton Badovini	Ducati	@9 laps



RACE TWO (18 laps)

1	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia	34'58.775
2	Tom Sykes	Kawasaki	@1.708
3	Sylvain Guintoli	Aprilia	@4.052
4	Marco Melandri	BMW	@10.860
5	Toni Elias	Aprilia	@12.171
6	Chaz Davies	BMW	@12.396
7	Jules Cluzel	Suzuki	@17.434
8	Leon Haslam	Honda	@17.683
9	Davide Giugliano	Aprilia	@25.770
10	Michel Fabrizio	Honda	@38.735
11	Mark Aitchison	Kawasaki	@48.892
12	Federico Sandi	Kawasaki	@49.136
13	Vittorio Iannuzzo	BMW	@1'36.589
14	Tolga Uprak	Kawasaki	@1 lap
15	Yunus Ercelik	BMW	@1 lap