

2012 AT A GLANCE

-  **1** PHILLIP ISLAND
AUSTRALIA
FEBRUARY 26
-  **2** IMOLA
ITALY
APRIL 1
-  **3** ASSEN
THE NETHERLANDS
APRIL 22
-  **4** MONZA
ITALY
MAY 6
-  **5** DONINGTON
EUROPE
MAY 13
-  **6** MILLER
MOTORSPORT
UNITED STATES
MAY 28
-  **7** MISANO
SAN MARINO
JUNE 10
-  **8** MOTORLAND
ARAGON
SPAIN
JULY 1
-  **9** BRNO
CZECH REPUBLIC
JULY 22
-  **10** SILVERSTONE
UNITED KINGDOM
AUGUST 5
-  **11** MOSCOW
RACEWAY
RUSSIA
AUGUST 26
-  **12** NÜRBURGRING
GERMANY
SEPTEMBER 9
-  **13** PORTIMÃO
PORTUGAL
SEPTEMBER 23
-  **14** MAGNY-COURS
FRANCE
OCTOBER 7



ASSEN WAS NO FLUKE – DELIGHTED GUINTOLI

Effenbert Liberty Ducati rider Sylvain Guintoli heads to Monza this weekend hoping to prove that his maiden eni FIM Superbike World Championship victory at Assen was no fluke.

The Frenchman, 29, took the honours in race one in Holland as he showed the surest skills in horrendous wet weather that accounted for several of his rivals.

The win was also the first for the Effenbert Liberty squad but came on a difficult weekend for the team as another of their riders, Canadian Brett McCormick, fractured two vertebrae in a heavy accident.

But as attention turns to this weekend's round in Italy, there will be few expecting Guintoli to produce a repeat performance.

However, the former MotoGP racer said: "A one-two at Assen was fantastic and by far my best weekend in any Superbike round. I think it is looking good. I really enjoy the bike, I am in control and it was not a fluke. In Australia and Imola, we were often quite fast and Imola

is a hard track. I feel I am gelling well with my bike, and my team and I am really enjoying it a lot."

And Guintoli acknowledged just how special it has been to claim the full 25 points for the first time at world championship level.

"Bringing the first victory for my team is something that I am very proud of," he said.

"It is a great personal feeling, the best of all probably stepping on the top of the podium and hearing La Marseillaise.

"I want to thank every single member of my team for the hard work and support in the good and the more difficult moments."

The win at Assen helped to move Guintoli up to fourth in the championship, but it is old rivals Max Biaggi and Carlos Checa who continue to lead the way at the top of the standings.

Aprilia rider Biaggi holds a one-point advantage over his former MotoGP team-mate and his Althea Ducati.

Britain's Tom Sykes is their nearest challenger, lying third on the Kawasaki, 13 points behind Biaggi. Fellow British rider Jonathan Rea won the second Assen race ahead of Guintoli, and now stands sixth in the championship.

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SUPERSPORT™
FIM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Vladimir Leonov is hoping for better weather at Monza this weekend, despite inclement conditions allowing him to create history in the last FIM Supersport World Championship round at Assen. The Yakhnich Motorsport Yamaha rider claimed a third-placed finish to become the first Russian to stand on the podium in the history of the series. He said: "I like racing in the wet, but now I prefer to race in drier conditions next time!"



SUPERSTOCK 1000™
FIM CUP

Sylvain Barrier will be looking to continue his 100 per cent record as the Superstock 1000 FIM Cup rolls into Monza. The Frenchman has made a fine start to the season with his BMW Motorrad Italia GoldBet squad. Victories at Imola and then at Assen last time out have moved him to the head of the standings with a handy 18-point lead over Italy's Eddi La Marra, who took a solid third in Holland for the Barni Racing Team Italia.



SUPERSTOCK 600™
UEM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Michael van der Mark heads to Monza full of confidence after claiming his first European Superstock 600 Championship win on home soil at Assen. The Ten Kate Junior rider claimed a memorable success and has now taken a one-point lead at the top of the standings. He said: "I pushed every lap as hard as I could and was able to run away. It was a great weekend, bring on Monza!"



LEGENDS ON SHOW AT MONZA PARTY

World Superbike will be celebrating its 25th anniversary at Monza this weekend, with fans given a unique opportunity to get up close with the bikes and riders that have helped to create the history of the championship since 1988.

The first appointment is scheduled for Thursday at 1 pm with the inauguration of the exhibition 'SBK 25 Years: the Top Bikes' with around 30 of the most representative machines to grace the World Superbike racing stage on show.

Promoter and organiser Infront Motor Sports also bring to Monza many of the great world champions who have graced the last 25 years of racing. The list of legendary names includes Fred Merkel, Doug Polen, Aaron Slight, Fabrizio Pirovano and Pierfrancesco Chili, and there are hopes that Carl Fogarty and Troy Bayliss will also be able to attend.

LASCORZ OUT OF INTENSIVE CARE

Kawasaki rider Joan Lascorz is showing signs of recovery back home in Spain after his major crash in practice ahead of round two of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship at Imola.

A Kawasaki Racing Team statement said: "Joan, by showing improvements in his physical condition and especially in terms of his respiratory system, has been transferred from the intensive care unit to the spinal cord injury unit at Vall d'Hebron.

"The Spaniard is fully awake and aware, artificial respiration assistance has been removed and Joan can speak without any problems.

"It is expected that if Joan is progressing well enough in the coming days, he will be transferred to the Institute Guttmann for a quick start to his recovery process."

MCCORMICK FACING LONG RECOVERY

Effebert Liberty Ducati rider Brett McCormick is set to be sidelined for two to three months after his huge accident at Assen. The Canadian suffered a heavy fall during the second race in Holland and suffered injuries to his spine, face, eye and hand.

McCormick's most serious injuries were the fractures to two of his vertebrae, although he has not suffered any spinal damage. He was transported from Assen hospital back to his native Canada last week.

A team statement read: "Recent investigations have shown that, in addition to the fracture of the fifth and sixth cervical vertebra, Brett also has a lumbar fracture, so for a few weeks he will have to wear a collar and back brace to immobilise the affected areas. It is still early to fix the time of his full recovery, however it could be in about two or three months."

HODGSON AND CRAFAR TRIBUTE

Two more World Superbike legends were added to the SBK Hall of Fame at the last round in Assen. Championship director Paolo Ciabatti handed medals to Neil Hodgson and Simon Crafar, who are still part of the World Superbike family.

British rider Hodgson clinched the 2003 title at Assen – five rounds before the end of the season – on his factory Fila Ducati 999 F03. After 147 races, 41 podiums, 16 poles and the same number of wins, he is now part of the television commentary team for British Eurosport.

New Zealander Crafar now uses his experience as a coach to the 14- to 19-year-olds in the European Junior Cup. After competing as a wild card as early as 1989, he raced on factory Honda and Kawasaki bikes from 1994-97, taking 10 podiums and one pole, finishing fifth overall in 1994 and 1997.

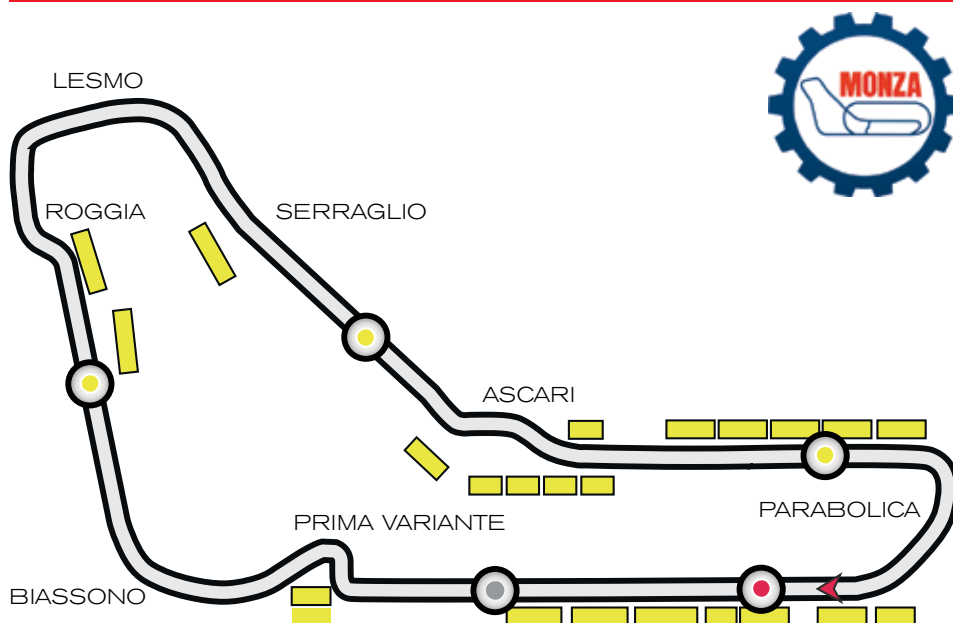
APRILIA PAIR ARE IN UPBEAT MOOD

The Aprilia Racing Team arrives at Monza after taking some big positives from a tough round last time out at Assen. Max Biaggi leads the eni FIM Superbike World Championship by a single point after his fourth and eighth places, while Eugene Laverty earned his first podium for the marque with his third place in race two.

Biaggi said: "When you're aiming for the world championship, you have to set your sights on the biggest prize. Placings are important, but they can't become a constant. In any case, we left Holland with some heavy spoils in points and, considering the difficulties we had, we can't complain."

Laverty added: "After a difficult start I knew I could fight for the podium. Now we'll need to be good enough to continue on this path, earning important points for morale and the championship".



CIRCUIT GUIDE: MONZA

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS
WORLD SUPERBIKE

1	Max Biaggi	ITA	Aprilia	92
2	Carlos Checa	ESP	Ducati	91
3	Tom Sykes	GBR	Kawasaki	79
4=	Sylvain Guintoli	FRA	Ducati	66
4=	Marco Melandri	ITA	BMW	66
6	Jonathan Rea	GBR	Honda	65
7	Leon Haslam	GBR	BMW	58
8	Eugene Laverty	IRE	Aprilia	56
9	Jakub Smrz	CZE	Ducati	39
10	Davide Giugliano	ITA	Ducati	37
11	Michel Fabrizio	ITA	BMW	26
12	Maxime Berger	FRA	Ducati	25
13	Hiroshi Aoyama	JAP	Honda	22
14=	Niccolò Canepa	ITA	Ducati	20
14=	Lorenzo Zanetti	ITA	Ducati	20

WORLD SUPERSPORT

1=	Kenan Sofuoglu	TUR	Kawasaki	45
1=	Fabien Foret	FRA	Kawasaki	45
3	Sam Lowes	GBR	Honda	31
4	Broc Parkes	AUS	Honda	29
5	Vladimir Leonov	RUS	Yamaha	26

SUPERSTOCK 1000

1	Sylvain Barrier	FRA	BMW	50
2	Eddi La Marra	ITA	Ducati	32
3	Loris Baz	FRA	Kawasaki	30
4	Lorenzo Savadori	ITA	Ducati	28
5	Markus Reiterberger	GER	BMW	26

LAST TIME
ASSEN 22.04.12
RACE ONE

1	S Guintoli	Effenbert Liberty	18'38.395
2	D Giugliano	Althea Racing	@2.633
3	C Checa	Althea Racing	@3.031
4	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	@3.927
5	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	@4.374
6	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad	@11.359
7	J Smrz	Effenbert Liberty	@26.412
8	N Canepa	Red Devils Roma	@37.562
9	M Melandri	BMW Motorrad	@49.896
10	L Mercado	Team Pedercini	@1'08.847
11	M Berger	Effenbert Liberty	@1'11.760
12	H Aoyama	Honda	@1'13.988
13	D Salom	Team Pedercini	@1'27.019
14	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@1 lap
15	M Aitchison	Grillini Progea	@3 laps
Ret	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad	@3 laps
Ret	C Davies	ParkinGO MTC	@6 laps
Ret	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@7 laps
Ret	J Hopkins	Crescent Fixi Suzuki	@8 laps
Ret	L Camier	Crescent Fixi Suzuki	
Ret	J Rea	Honda	

RACE TWO

1	J Rea	Honda	36'45.936
2	S Guintoli	Effenbert Liberty	@2.819
3	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	@12.638
4	M Melandri	BMW Motorrad	@12.762
5	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@12.764
6	T Sykes	Kawasaki Racing	@20.393
7	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad	@36.317
8	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	@37.747
9	D Giugliano	Althea Racing	@41.350
10	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad	@43.930
11	J Hopkins	Crescent Fixi Suzuki	@57.515
12	D Salom	Team Pedercini	@1'32.593
13	H Aoyama	Honda	@1'33.576
14	L Camier	Crescent Fixi Suzuki	@1 lap
15	L Mercado	Team Pedercini	@1 lap
16	M Aitchison	Grillini Progea	@1 lap
17	C Checa	Althea Racing	@1 lap
Ret	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@2 laps
Ret	J Smrz	Effenbert Liberty	@4 laps
Ret	C Davies	ParkinGO MTC	@11 laps
Ret	M Berger	Effenbert Liberty	@11 laps
Ret	B McCormick	Effenbert Liberty	@13 laps
Ret	N Canepa	Red Devils	@15 laps