

2012 AT A GLANCE

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-  **3** **ASSEN**
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APRIL 22
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FRANCE
OCTOBER 7

infront

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HOPPER VOWING TO RIDE THROUGH PAIN

John Hopkins is hoping to put his latest injury troubles behind him when he returns to action in front of his home fans as the eni FIM Superbike World Championship heads to Miller Motorsports Park near Salt Lake City this weekend.

Hopkins, 28, missed the start of the season after breaking a bone in his hand in testing, and suffered further trouble at Monza, where the American broke a bone in his right foot and damaged his left hip.

That meant the FIXI Crescent Suzuki rider was forced to sit out the last round of the championship at Donington Park, and has since seen a specialist to diagnose the severity of his injuries. But he has been passed fit to return to action, although he will receive pain-killing injections in order for him to race as he looks to add to his meagre total of eight points.

"I was so disappointed to miss Donington Park, where I'm sure I could have been in that crazy fight

for the win," said Hopper. "It's been a really rough ride physically over recent times, and there were some real worries over the hip condition, but I know I have a lot more to give and that my luck has to change for the better.

"The team, my family and close friends have been really supportive, and I just want to get back into what I know I can do best.

"I am fully committed to racing at Miller, and I will be doing everything possible to ensure that I do whatever I can to get the best result possible for FIXI Crescent Suzuki, myself and everyone involved.

"It won't be easy, so I plan to take it step-by-step, enjoy the riding, and build back into it."

The Suzuki team are on a high after Hopkins' teammate Leon Camier delivered an impressive fourth-placed finish in the second race at Donington.

And team manager Jack Valentine is delighted to see his first-choice rider line-up back in action, although he knows it will be a difficult weekend for the wounded Hopkins.

He said: "I know it will be difficult for John as he will have to overcome the pain, but there will be no pressure from us and John's a tough cookie, as recent history has shown."



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SUPERSPORT™ FIM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

FIM Supersport World Championship title hopeful Sam Lowes hopes to use the break between Donington and Misano to recover from a finger injury. The Bogdanka PTR Honda rider, who claimed his maiden series win on home soil last time out, said: "There's a bit of a break now which is good, as I can sort out my injured finger. "I'll be training hard to go to Misano as fit as ever, and ready to rock and roll."



SUPERSTOCK 1000™ FIM CUP

Alpha Racing manager Josef Hofmann says they will use the break before the next Superstock 1000 FIM Cup round at Misano in June to hone the performance of their bike. Markus Reiterberger finished fourth for the team at Monza earlier this month and sits 18 points behind series leader Lorenzo Savadori. Hofmann said: "We will now do some more testing until the next round in Misano to be well prepared for the rest of the season."



SUPERSTOCK 600™ UEM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Superstock 600 European Championship takes a break this weekend before resuming at next month's round in Misano. Riccardo Russo (Team Italia FMI) leads the series on 61 points after his win at Monza, seven points clear of EAB Ten Kate Junior Team's Michael van der Mark. Nacho Calero Perez (Team Trasimeno Yamaha) is third in the standings on 50 points.



NEW BROADCAST DEAL FOR ITALY

Infront Sports & Media has reached a three-year agreement with the Mediaset Group for the exclusive broadcasting of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship in Italy. The world championship rounds will be broadcast free-to-air on the Italia 1 channel starting from 2013. The deal runs to the end of the 2015 season, with an option for the following three years.

"I am extremely satisfied with the agreement reached", said Paolo Flammini, the CEO of Infront Motor Sports. "The decision by Mediaset to join us is evidence of the high level reached by our championship. We are sure that this partnership will help to bring about a further crucial growth for the eni FIM Superbike World Championship. We would also like to thank the Italian TV broadcaster La7 for the excellent work it has carried out over the last few years."

LASCORZ MOVED TO GUTTMAN INSTITUTE

Kawasaki rider Joan Lascorz is continuing to make progress after being seriously injured in a testing crash at Imola last month, but still has no feeling in his lower body.

The 27-year-old Spaniard was last week moved from the Val d'Hebron Hospital in Barcelona to the Guttman Institute, and a Kawasaki statement read: "Joan remains fully conscious, talking, without any mental consequences and remembers all the Imola crash.

"Joan has sensitivity and mobility in his arms and hands, but right now has no feeling in the legs or the abdominal area. After the doctors and therapists have checked him at the Guttman Institute, a detailed medical statement will be issued to explain the full extent of his severe spinal cord injury and his potential recovery."

LAVERTY SUFFERS DOUBLE DISMAY

While Max Biaggi held on to his eni FIM Superbike World Championship lead with second and fifth places at Donington Park, Aprilia team-mate Eugene Laverty had a weekend to forget.

After struggling with a technical problem in the first race, which prevented him finishing any better than 15th, the Irishman crashed in race two as he pushed to stay in contact with his rivals.

He said: "The crash was the worst possible way to end this weekend. After struggling in race one with a technical problem and finishing 15th, in the second race I didn't want to lose contact with the lead pack. Just as I was pushing hardest, I lost the back end, demolishing my RSV4. Physically I'm fine, so all we can do is take a lesson from these problems and get back on track with the next round in America."

ALTHEA'S GREATEST YEAR NOW IN PRINT

Althea Racing has published a commemorative book to celebrate the successes of the 2011 FIM Superbike World Championship.

It proved a magical year for the team as Carlos Checa's double at the opening round at Phillip Island heralded an impressive 15 wins and 21 podium finishes in total aboard his Ducati 1198 in the season's 26 races. Checa made his 100th Superbike start at Silverstone and, at the same round, gave Ducati its 300th race win. Althea's great year also saw Davide Giugliano win the Superstock 1000 FIM Cup rider's title.

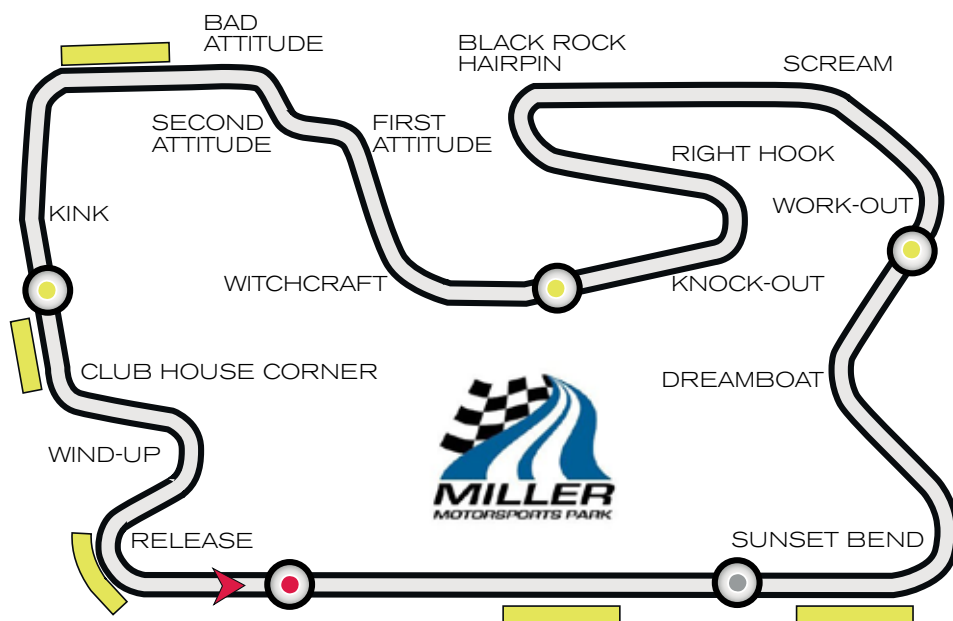
The book, 'Our Best Lap' is written by Genesio Bevilacqua, with contributions from Claudio Porrozzi and photography by Fabrizio Porrozzi. Published by Faenza Editrice, it is on sale online at www.letsbookandapp.com

BMW BREAK DUCK AT THE DOUBLE

The BMW Motorrad Motorsport team were celebrating at the double after the Donington Park round of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship. Marco Melandri's victory in race one was the team's first in 88 races and, for good measure, he crossed the line ahead of team-mate Leon Haslam, who completed a one-two for BMW.

The milestone follows Troy Corser claiming the team's first pole and podium in 2010, Melandri finishing runner-up in his very first race for BMW Motorrad this year and Haslam scoring two podium finishes at Imola. "Congratulations to Marco and the team on this important maiden victory," said Hendrik von Kuenheim, General Director of BMW Motorrad. "The whole team worked really hard to convert the full potential of the BMW S 1000 RR into success on the track."



CIRCUIT GUIDE: MILLER MOTORSPORTS PARK

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS
WORLD SUPERBIKE

1	Max Biaggi	ITA	Aprilia	128.5
2	Tom Sykes	GBR	Kawasaki	123.5
3	Jonathan Rea	GBR	Honda	108
4	Carlos Checa	ESP	Ducati	105.5
5	Marco Melandri	ITA	BMW	97.5
6	Leon Haslam	GBR	BMW	89
7	Sylvain Guintoli	FRA	Ducati	85
8	Eugene Laverty	IRE	Aprilia	65
9	Davide Giugliano	ITA	Ducati	50
10	Jakub Smrz	CZE	Ducati	44.5
11	Michel Fabrizio	ITA	BMW	35
12	Leon Camier	GBR	Suzuki	34.5
13	Hiroshi Aoyama	JAP	Honda	30.5
14	Maxime Berger	FRA	Ducati	29.5
15	Ayrton Badovini	ITA	BMW	29

WORLD SUPERSPORT

1	Kenan Sofuoglu	TUR	Kawasaki	81
2	Sam Lowes	GBR	Honda	76
3	Jules Cluzel	FRA	Honda	64
4	Fabien Foret	FRA	Kawasaki	55
5	Broc Parkes	AUS	Honda	42

SUPERSTOCK 1000

1	Lorenzo Savadori	ITA	Ducati	53
2	Sylvain Barrier	FRA	BMW	50
3	Eddi La Marra	ITA	Ducati	48
4	Markus Reiterberger	GER	BMW	35
5	Loris Baz	FRA	Kawasaki	30

LAST TIME
DONINGTON PARK 13.05.12
RACE ONE

1	M Melandri	BMW Motorrad	34'26.736
2	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@0.728
3	T Sykes	Kawasaki Racing	@1.609
4	J Rea	Honda	@1.819
5	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	@2.102
6	C Checa	Althea Racing	@4.820
7	D Giugliano	Althea Racing	@7.520
8	S Guintoli	Effenbert Liberty	@7.927
9	L Camier	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@15.144
10	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad Italia	@16.065
11	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad Italia	@19.805
12	C Davies	ParkinGO MTC	@20.170
13	M Berger	Effenbert Liberty	@21.274
14	J Smrz	Effenbert Liberty	@21.517
15	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	@26.920
16	L Baz	Kawasaki Racing	@35.025
17	H Aoyama	Honda	@39.193
18	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@42.334
19	N Canepa	Red Devils Roma	@43.554
NC	M Aitchison	Grillini Progea	@2 laps
NC	P Hickman	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@8 laps
Ret	G Mason	Team Pedercini	@9 laps
Ret	L Mercado	Team Pedercini	

RACE TWO

1	J Rea	Honda	34'31.847
2	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	@0.508
3	T Sykes	Kawasaki Racing	@2.029
4	L Camier	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@4.245
5	S Guintoli	Effenbert Liberty	@6.595
6	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad Italia	@17.469
7	C Davies	ParkinGO MTC	@17.788
8	L Baz	Kawasaki Racing	@21.093
9	P Hickman	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@21.866
10	H Aoyama	Honda	@22.620
11	N Canepa	Red Devils Roma	@26.764
12	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@27.043
13	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad Italia	@28.390
14	M Aitchison	Grillini Progea	@56.618
15	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@1'20.196
Ret	M Melandri	BMW Motorrad	@1 lap
Ret	L Mercado	Team Pedercini	@4 laps
Ret	G Mason	Team Pedercini	@9 laps
Ret	M Berger	Effenbert Liberty	@11 laps
Ret	D Giugliano	Althea Racing	@12 laps
Ret	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	@13 laps
Ret	C Checa	Althea Racing	
Ret	J Smrz	Effenbert Liberty	