

2012 AT A GLANCE

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-  **3** **ASSEN**
THE NETHERLANDS
APRIL 22
-  **4** **MONZA**
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-  **5** **DONINGTON**
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FRANCE
OCTOBER 7



HASLAM BIDDING TO HIT BACK AT MISANO

Leon Haslam knows he must bounce back at Misano this weekend after suffering a difficult time in the last round in the United States.

The eni FIM Superbike World Championship hopeful was nowhere near the leading pace at Miller Motorsports Park near Salt Lake City, and could only manage eighth and 10th places as BMW Motorrad Motorsport team-mate Marco Melandri picked up a second place and then victory in race two.

The results were enough to drop English rider Haslam down to sixth in the standings, 57.5 points adrift of series leader Max Biaggi, and the 29-year-old admitted that he could scarcely have had a more disappointing weekend in America.

"Everything that could have gone wrong, did go wrong," he said. "Due to electrical issues and other things we missed a lot of track time. In race one, we were struggling with the engine brake."

"For race two we made good steps, the boys had worked very well, but we need to do more. Our lap

time was not too bad in race two, but it is not where we should be. The main thing we need to work on is the engine braking."

"The long break between the red flag and the restart was a positive thing for me, because we could reassess the bike and make some more changes after we lost a lot of time over the weekend."

"I got a good feeling over the first three laps and we made some more changes for the second part, which brought another small improvement."

"Marco rode well over the whole weekend, and now I look forward to Misano, where I know we can challenge for the wins again."

Defending champion Carlos Checa was another to lose valuable ground in the title chase in Salt Lake City.

The Althea Ducati rider took the spoils in race one to continue his fine record at the Utah track, but a fall in race two has left him 30 points behind principal rival Biaggi.

The Spaniard said: "In the second race I was pushing, I was feeling confident with the setting, but clearly I pushed a bit too hard and lost the front. I went back on track but there was nothing I could do, I'd lost too much ground."

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INFRONT MOTOR SPORTS (IMS)
Via di Tor Pagnotta 94,
001543 Rome, Italy
T +39 06 509 661
F +39 06 509 66350
www.infrontsports.com



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SUPERSPORT™ FIM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Australian rider Broc Parkes has refused to admit defeat in the FIM Supersport World Championship title race. The Supersport class did not race at Miller Motorsports Park and the four-week gap will have seemed particularly lengthy for Parkes after his fourth place at Donington. The Ten Kate Honda rider trails leader Kenan Sofuoglu by 39 points, but said: "The championship looks a little bit difficult, but it's not over until it's over."



SUPERSTOCK 1000™ FIM CUP

Fabio Massei hopes to build on a strong result at Monza when the Superstock 1000 FIM Cup resumes after a long break at Misano this weekend. It has been a month since the last round of the series saw Ten Kate Honda rider Massei claim a solid fourth place in sodden conditions on home soil. "I want to thank everyone who helped me at Monza," he said. "On to Misano – my second home race in a row."



SUPERSTOCK 600™ UEM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Italian Riccardo Russo heads to his second home race in a row with a seven-point lead at the top of the Superstock 600 UEM European Championship. The Yamaha racer took his second win of the season in the last round at Monza, and will be looking to build on that result and extend his advantage over Holland's Michael van der Mark when the series heads to Misano this weekend.



HOPKINS UNHURT IN LATEST CRASH

There was a big sigh of relief in the pit lane after John Hopkins avoided injury when he crashed again in the last round of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship on home ground in the United States.

'Hopper' had missed the start of the season in Australia with a hand injury suffered in testing, this after having surgery to amputate part of a finger during the off-season. He then suffered further trouble at Monza, where the American broke a bone in his right foot and damaged his left hip.

That meant he missed the Donington round, but was back on the grid at Miller Motorsports Park, only to crash again on the seventh lap of race one. Hopkins said: "I clipped the kerb with the generator cover and was flicked off, and that was that. Luckily, I didn't hurt myself this time."

NATIONAL PRIDE AT STAKE AT MISANO

Italian riders will hope for a home advantage in the ongoing battle with their British rivals when the eni FIM Superbike World Championship arrives at Misano on the Adriatic coast.

While 2010 champion Max Biaggi heads the standings, fellow Italian Marco Melandri has joined Englishman Tom Sykes in joint second place. Kawasaki rider Sykes heads a platoon of five British or Irish riders in the top 12 places in the championship, compared with four Italians.

Sykes is joined by Jonathan Rea, Leon Haslam, Eugene Laverty and Leon Camier, while the Italian challenge includes ninth-placed Davide Giugliano and Michel Fabrizio in 11th. The top 12 is completed by a Spaniard, defending champion Carlos Checa, Frenchman Sylvain Guintoli and Czech rider Jakub Smrz.

BIAGGI CALLING FOR MORE FROM APRILIA

Max Biaggi has called on Aprilia to improve his RSV4 despite holding the lead in the eni FIM Superbike World Championship. The Italian is 18 points clear at the top of the standings, and another strong set of results in America means he heads to one of his home rounds at Misano in control of the title race and on target for his second world crown. But the improved form of Honda and BMW over recent rounds, and the threat posed by the Althea Ducati and Kawasaki squads, means the championship is one of the most competitive for many years. Biaggi said: "We left the United States ahead in the standings, but the last few races have shown how BMW and Honda have been improving. We need to improve our bike as well, because our rivals' progress is clear."

SYKES HOPES FOR MORE CHAMPAGNE

Kawasaki rider Tom Sykes believes his dip in form at the last round of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship will be a one-off – and he will soon be able to enjoy his new-found taste for champagne once more.

The 26-year-old from Huddersfield in England could only finish eighth and fifth at Miller Motorsports Park, and said: "You cannot give anything away to these boys, but unfortunately it looks like we did for a while. We cannot get carried away with any thoughts like that, because we are still second equal on points in the championship."

"We have got some better tracks coming up, and I am looking forward to getting there. It is just hard for me to sit in my chair and debrief when some of the others are on the podium spraying champagne. I have got the taste for it now!"

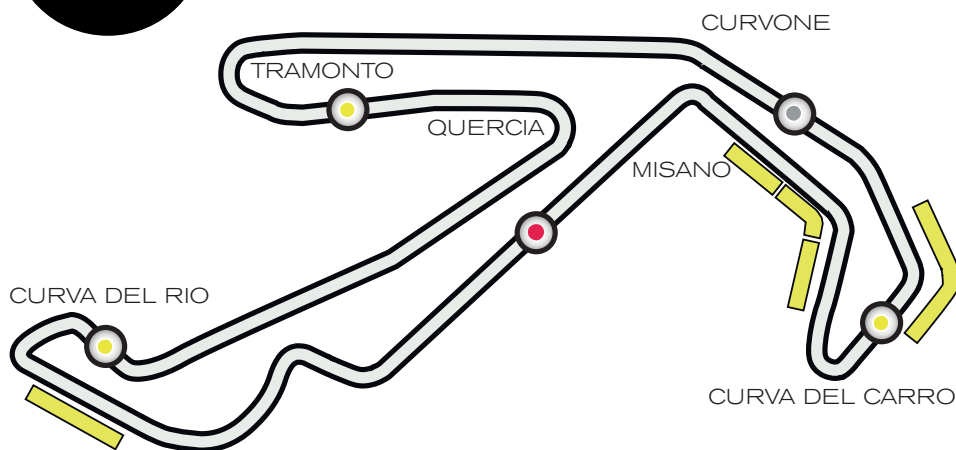
NEW BOOK DETAILS 2011 CHAMPIONSHIP

Fans can relive the 2011 World Superbike season in a lavish new book. *Superbike 2011/2012 – The Official Book* features race-by-race coverage of the season, which saw Carlos Checa win the title on his Ducati ahead of newcomer Marco Melandri and 2010 champion Max Biaggi.

The 192-page hardback book features almost 300 spectacular photographs by Fabrizio Porrozi, alongside text by his brother, Claudio. As well as in-depth coverage of the FIM Superbike World Championship, the book also features sections on the Supersport, Superstock 1000 and Superstock 600 championships, won by Chaz Davies, Davide Giugliano and Jed Metcher respectively.

To order a copy of the book, which costs €30, go to www.libreriadellautomobile.it or visit the publishers at en.giorgionadaeditore.it



CIRCUIT GUIDE: MISANO

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS
WORLD SUPERBIKE

1	Max Biaggi	ITA	Aprilia	160.5
2=	Marco Melandri	ITA	BMW	142.5
2=	Tom Sykes	GBR	Kawasaki	142.5
4	Jonathan Rea	GBR	Honda	141
5	Carlos Checa	ESP	Ducati	130.5
6	Leon Haslam	GBR	BMW	103
7	Sylvain Guintoli	FRA	Ducati	95
8	Eugene Laverty	IRE	Aprilia	86
9	Davide Giugliano	ITA	Ducati	64
10	Jakub Smrz	CZE	Ducati	61.5
11	Michel Fabrizio	ITA	BMW	46
12	Leon Camier	GBR	Suzuki	42.5
13	Chaz Davies	GBR	Aprilia	39
14	Ayrton Badovini	ITA	BMW	34
15=	Maxime Berger	FRA	Ducati	30.5
15=	Hiroshi Aoyama	JAP	Honda	30.5

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
MILLER 28.05.12
RACE ONE

1	C Checa	Althea Ducati	38'21.283
2	M Melandri	BMW Motorrad	@2.313
3	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	@5.338
4	J Rea	Honda	@5.517
5	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	@12.201
6	J Smrz	Liberty Effebert	@13.262
7	C Davies	ParkinGO MTC	@19.662
8	T Sykes	Kawasaki Racing	@21.292
9	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad Italia	@21.450
10	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@23.433
11	D Giugliano	Althea Ducati	@23.696
12	S Guintoli	Liberty Effebert	@24.752
13	L Camier	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@29.400
14	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad Italia	@31.222
15	L Baz	Kawasaki Racing	@32.966
16	M Berger	Liberty Effebert	@35.409
17	H Aoyama	Honda	@52.153
18	S Turpin	Boulder Motor Sports	@1 lap
19	J Holden	Grillini Progea	@1 lap
Ret	L Mercado	Team Pedercini	@8 laps
Ret	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@10 laps
Ret	J Hopkins	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@14 laps
Ret	D Salom	Team Pedercini	@14 laps
Ret	N Canepa	Red Devils Roma	@15 laps

RACE TWO

1	M Melandri	BMW Motorrad	32'56.257
2	J Rea	Honda	@0.195
3	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	@2.137
4	C Davies	ParkinGO MTC	@4.245
5	T Sykes	Kawasaki Racing	@9.534
6	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	@9.798
7	D Giugliano	Althea Racing	@11.891
8	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@12.715
9	J Smrz	Liberty Effebert	@13.017
10	S Guintoli	Liberty Effebert	@13.703
11	L Camier	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@15.687
12	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad Italia	@21.923
13	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad Italia	@23.940
14	L Baz	Kawasaki Racing	@24.051
15	M Berger	Liberty Effebert	@33.897
16	J Hopkins	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@38.692
17	L Mercado	Team Pedercini	@47.703
18	J Holden	Grillini Progea	@1'07.223
19	S Turpin	Boulder Motor Sports	@1'41.714
Ret	D Salom	Team Pedercini	@5 laps
Ret	C Checa	Althea Racing	@7 laps
Ret	N Canepa	Red Devils Roma	@9 laps
Ret	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@13 laps
NS	H Aoyama	Honda	