

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



MARCO AND MAX TAKE IT DOWN TO THE WIRE

Marco Melandri will be looking to bounce back from his Nürburgring nightmare when the eni FIM Superbike World Championship heads to Portimão in Portugal this weekend.

BMW rider Melandri had gone to Germany holding the lead in the championship and looking in a strong position to improve on last season, when he was runner-up behind champion Carlos Checa.

But Melandri fell twice at the Nürburgring to hand the championship initiative back to fellow Italian Max Biaggi. The Aprilia veteran now holds a lead of just 9.5 points with only two rounds remaining as the series prepares for another epic title finale to match those between Colin Edwards and Troy Bayliss in 2002, and Ben Spies and Noriyuki Haga in 2009.

Melandri, 30, managed to take a victory on his first visit to Portimão last season, and is hopeful there will be more of the same this weekend after putting in extra training at home. "It looks like we are going to

have good weather at Portugal, so I am very happy about that," he said. "I expect tough races, for sure. There are just two rounds to go and the championship is still very open for quite a few riders. So it will be not easy, but very interesting.

"I will approach the weekend like I always do. In preparation I have trained a lot back home, and in Portimão I will try to enjoy the riding. The whole team and I will do our best, and just try to be consistent and fast in both races.

"Portimão is one of the most beautiful racetracks in the world. The layout is unbelievable. There are up and down sections that you find on no other racetrack, and the corners are pretty fast.

"Last year I was there for the first time and I had a good result. The races are not going to be easy because for sure it will be close between many riders."

Melandri won the second race in Portugal last year, halting Checa's charge – the Spaniard's win in race one had been his fourth on the trot and seventh in nine races as he dominated the 2011 championship.

Kawasaki's Tom Sykes remains in the title picture but needs strong results to keep his hopes alive for the final round in France, while Checa and Jonathan Rea will need serious misfortune to strike the front-runners if either is to claim the crown.

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INFRONT MOTOR SPORTS (IMS)
Via di Tor Pagnotta 94,
00143 Rome, Italy
T +39 06 509 661
F +39 06 509 66350
www.infrontsports.com



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SUPERSPORT FIM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

FIM Supersport World Championship leader Kenan Sofuoglu will play the percentages as he looks to secure the title at Portimão this weekend. The Kawasaki rider is 38 points clear of Jules Cluzel with two rounds left after beating the Frenchman to victory at the Nürburgring.

He said: "I knew if I won in Germany I just had to finish the race in Portimão to become world champion again."



SUPERSTOCK 1000 FIM CUP

British racer Kev Coghlan is buoyant as he looks to build on his Nürburgring podium in the FIM Superstock 1000 Cup in Portimão.

The DMC Racing rider earned second place in Germany, and said: "I had a 1.5-second lead in second place towards the end, so I just had to concentrate on making no mistakes. It's a great confidence boost to get on the podium, and I'm looking forward to the last two races of the season."



SUPERSTOCK 600 UEM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Michael van der Mark is raring to go as he seeks to defend a two-point lead in the UEM European Superstock 600 Championship at Portimão. The Dutchman won in Germany – despite riding with a broken collarbone – to take a slender lead over Riccardo Russo.

"I'm feeling better day by day, so I can't wait to ride again," he said.



BAIOCCO IN FOR INJURED CANEPA

Matteo Baiocco will replace the injured Niccolò Canepa on the Red Devils Roma Ducati in the final two rounds of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship. Canepa suffered a broken leg in a crash at Nürburgring, an injury that means he will miss Portimão and Magny-Cours.

Baiocco has just clinched the CIV Italian Superbike title for the second time on a Ducati, and has also been chosen by the famous Italian marque as tester for the new 1199 Panigale. He has past SBK experience as a wild-card, and as a full-time rider two seasons ago.

"I am really happy about this great opportunity offered to me by Andrea Petricca and his team," said Baiocco. "Being able to take part in two World Superbike rounds is always fantastic, even though I'm clearly sorry that Niccolò got hurt."

LEON PUTS SUZUKI ON PODIUM AT LAST

Leon Camier finally earned the FIXI Crescent Suzuki team a place on the podium for the first time this season at Nürburgring. Despite qualifying seventh in Tissot-Superpole, the British rider was forced to start from the back in race one due to a problem on the grid. He nevertheless worked his way up to fifth place, and things got better in race two.

Starting on the second row of the grid, Camier overcame a poor start and took his Suzuki GSX-R1000 to third place after a great scrap with Aprilia rider Eugene Laverty. The result was a major boost for Camier and his team, who are now convinced development of the Yoshimura-powered Suzuki GSX-R1000 is on the right track. Camier said: "I'm very happy with the podium – it's been a long time – and the result in race one wasn't bad either. The bike felt pretty good."

HONDA FANS GIVEN INSIDERS' PITS VIEW

Honda-owning race fans can get up close and personal with the Honda World Superbike Team at Portimão this weekend. For the final time this season, the team will be erecting its special pit display system in its race garage with clear panels on one side, offering a close view of the riders and technicians at work during the weekend's practice and qualifying sessions, a fascinating insight into the workings of a world championship motorcycle racing team.

To gain access to the Portimão garage, Honda owners simply need to show their vehicle's registration certificate at the garage door. In return, they will receive a team wristband to allow them into the garage. Team manager Ronald ten Kate said: "It's the last time this season that we'll be using the viewing gallery in our pitbox, and it's a pleasure to be doing it at Portimão."

KARL GIVEN HALL OF FAME HONOUR

Karl Muggeridge is the latest rider to be inducted into the SBK Hall of Fame as part of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship 25th anniversary celebrations. The Australian, with more than 150 races to his name in World Superbike and Supersport, was awarded his silver medal in the pit lane at the Nürburgring round.

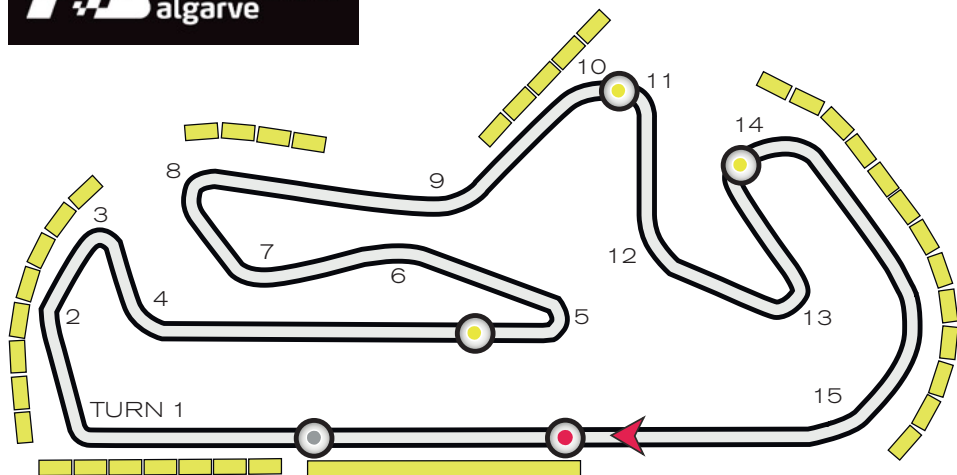
A production-racing veteran, 'Muggas' made his debut in World Supersport back in 1998, when he was successfully racing in the British series. The man from Tweed Heads, New South Wales, became a full-time competitor in 2000 and was quickly one of the stars of the mid-engined production-racing series. He moved up to World Superbike in 2005, still with Ten Kate Honda, and also rode for Suzuki. His career saw 62 appearances – and 11 wins – in Supersport, and 114 in World Superbike.

DAVIES TAKES GB INTO ALL-TIME THREE-WAY TIE

Chaz Davies' maiden win aboard the ParkinGO MTC Aprilia in Germany brought about a remarkable statistical landmark. The Welshman – who will ride for BMW Motorrad in 2013 – won race two at the Nürburgring to seal the 118th race win by a British rider in 25 years of the FIM Superbike World Championship.

The last race victory in the class for an Australian rider came in 2008, for Troy Bayliss, which took the total wins scored by all Australian riders to 118. And the last race win for an American rider – for Ben Spies in 2009 – also took the total number of wins scored by American riders to 118. The next most successful World Superbike race-winning nations are Italy (90) and Japan (62).



CIRCUIT GUIDE: PORTIMÃO

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS
WORLD SUPERBIKE

1	Max Biaggi	ITA	Aprilia	318
2	Marco Melandri	ITA	BMW	308.5
3	Tom Sykes	GBR	Kawasaki	291.5
4	Carlos Checa	ESP	Ducati	247.5
5	Jonathan Rea	GBR	Honda	225.5
6	Eugene Laverty	IRE	Aprilia	213.5
7	Leon Haslam	GBR	BMW	189
8	Chaz Davies	GBR	Aprilia	156.5
9	Sylvain Guintoli	FRA	Ducati	143.5
10	Davide Giugliano	ITA	Ducati	125
11	Michel Fabrizio	ITA	BMW	119.5
12	Leon Camier	GBR	Suzuki	104.5
13	Ayrton Badovini	ITA	BMW	99
14	Loris Baz	FRA	Kawasaki	98
15	Jakub Smrz	CZE	Ducati	92.5

WORLD SUPERSPORT

1	Kenan Sofuoglu	TUR	Kawasaki	198
2	Jules Cluzel	FRA	Honda	160
3	Fabien Foret	FRA	Kawasaki	144
4	Sam Lowes	GBR	Honda	141
5	Broc Parkes	AUS	Honda	122

SUPERSTOCK 1000

1	Eddi La Marra	ITA	Ducati	119
2	Sylvain Barrier	FRA	BMW	113
3	Bryan Staring	AUS	Kawasaki	86
4	Jeremy Guarnoni	FRA	Kawasaki	82
5	Lorenzo Savadori	ITA	Ducati	78

LAST TIME
NÜRBURGRING 09.09.12
RACE ONE

1	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	38'52.751
2	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	@3.027
3	C Davies	ParkinGO MTC	@3.127
4	T Sykes	Kawasaki Racing	@12.306
5	L Camier	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@14.131
6	S Guintoli	PATA Racing	@19.523
7	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@27.017
8	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@33.116
9	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad Italia	@34.937
10	H Aoyama	Honda	@39.132
11	M Berger	Effenbert Liberty	@41.000
12	C Checa	Althea Racing	@41.125
13	J Hopkins	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@46.925
14	L Lanzi	Effenbert Liberty	@54.659
15	M McCormick	Effenbert Liberty	@56.342
16	A Lundh	Team Pedercini	@1'09.730
17	N Brignola	Grillini Progea	@1'43.679
Ret	L Baz	Kawasaki Racing	@3 laps
Ret	M Melandri	BMW Motorrad	@15 laps
Ret	D Giugliano	Althea Racing	@17 laps
Ret	J Rea	Honda	@18 laps
Ret	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad Italia	

RACE TWO

1	C Davies	ParkinGO MTC	39'00.327
2	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	@3.022
3	L Camier	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@3.222
4	J Rea	Honda	@5.705
5	T Sykes	Kawasaki Racing	@7.304
6	C Checa	Althea Racing	@7.541
7	D Giugliano	Althea Racing	@14.709
8	L Baz	Kawasaki Racing	@19.782
9	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad Italia	@19.925
10	S Guintoli	PATA Racing	@20.028
11	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@25.653
12	J Hopkins	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@29.142
13	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	@29.579
14	M Berger	Effenbert Liberty	@36.090
15	H Aoyama	Honda	@40.912
16	L Lanzi	Effenbert Liberty	@50.401
17	N Brignola	Grillini Progea	@3 laps
Ret	B McCormick	Effenbert Liberty	@5 laps
Ret	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@11 laps
Ret	M Melandri	BMW Motorrad	@12 laps
Ret	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad Italia	@12 laps
Ret	A Lundh	Team Pedercini	@14 laps