

Istanbul Park, Turkey, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2007

## KONICA MINOLTA Honda 13<sup>th</sup> on a tough day

KONICA MINOLTA Honda rider Shinya Nakano took 13<sup>th</sup> position during today's 22-lap race at Istanbul Park. Despite a fairly good start, Shinya Nakano had to try and avoid a first lap incident, which saw Kawasaki's Olivier Jacque go out of control and take out Yamaha's Colin Edwards and Honda's Dani Pedrosa. Shinya dropped back through the order and worked hard to make up positions but a lack of feeling in the front-end of his Honda RCV212V meant he still couldn't carry the corner-speed that he wanted, leaving him in 13<sup>th</sup> position – not exactly what he expected to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> premier class start of his career. The Team has vowed to work hard with HRC and Michelin in a bid to solve the problems in time for the Chinese GP, which takes place in two-weeks time.

### Gianluca Montiron – Team Manager KONICA MINOLTA Honda

*"We have suffered from some problems that has meant that it has been hard for Shinya to push hard in the corners without some risk to himself. When you see Valentino Rossi in 10<sup>th</sup>, the results show that this situation affects many riders on the same tyre. I think maybe our tyres can work well but they are sensitive to temperature and this weekend we saw many changes in conditions over all three days and between morning and afternoon. We always knew that there would be a question mark over this race as no-one has tested here and this is the first race in Turkey with the new 800cc machines and the restricted tyre rule. I think now we have to work hard with our partners HRC and Michelin to permit Shinya to carry lots of corner speed. We must learn from this situation and work hard with our partners to improve things in time for the Chinese GP."*

### Shinya Nakano – Rider, KONICA MINOLTA Honda (13th position)

*"My start was okay, but when the big accident happened I was trying to avoid getting caught up in it and then lost 10<sup>th</sup> place. I knew it was going to be a hard race from then on. We suffered again from a lack of feeling from the front-end of the bike, but at least we did get some points and that was one of my targets from this weekend, which is one of the first races in a long season. Our problems have come from a combination of things, but I know Honda and Michelin will work hard together with our Team and we're hopeful of better results in later races."*

### Giulio Bernardelle – Technical Director, KONICA MINOLTA Honda

*"Our problem seems to be from a combination of the tyres and the machine. The positive point is that we have a clear idea about the problem we have with the bike, and this feeling is backed up by the data and telemetry. Unfortunately adding to our problem was the fact that our tyre was also not the best here today. Our way forward is clear as we must now make this comment to HRC and decide what to do for the future races."*

### GP of Turkey – Race results

1) Casey Stoner	Ducati	42' 02.850"
2) Toni Elias	Honda	42' 09.057"
3) Loris Capirossi	Ducati	42' 10.952"
4) Alex Barros	Ducati	42' 10.985"
5) Marco Melandri	Honda	42' 11.139"
13) Shinya Nakano	Honda	42' 39.772"

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