

Sachsenring, Germany, Sunday 15th July 2007

KONICA MINOLTA Honda unable to finish German MotoGP race

Shinya Nakano's German Grand Prix ended prematurely today when he was forced to pit his KONICA MINOLTA RC212V machine from the 30-lap German Grand Prix. Despite a good start, which saw Shinya battling with Valentino Rossi and eventual podium finisher Nicky Hayden, a technical problem from the fifth lap of the race eventually meant that the 29-year-old Japanese rider had to enter the pits, which ended his race early. With track temperatures soaring around the 50-degree mark, conditions were always going to be hard on tyres – especially with the Sachsenring's combination of six left-hand corners – and so it proved with a number of riders crashing out. The Team now packs up and immediately heads for the USA and Laguna Seca for the eleventh round of the 18-round MotoGP season.

Gianluca Montiron – Team Manager KONICA MINOLTA Honda

"Today could have been the day that we secured our best finish of the year so far. Shinya started well but lost position to Rossi and Hayden, but he was able to keep a good rhythm but after five laps he suffered the technical problem. It was a shame as we had chosen the same tyres as the winner of the race, so our choice was correct. I think Shinya would have been able to get into the top eight today, but we have not been so lucky this year. The important point is that we've made some improvements and the next race is only in seven days time, so we still have time to get a good result before the summer break. It was good to see Dani Pedrosa and Honda win the race today, so that gives us hope also for the second half of the season."

Shinya Nakano – Rider, KONICA MINOLTA Honda (DNF)

"I made a good start and overtook a couple of riders on the first lap. With the hot conditions the pace was not so fast, so I could stay with the group but the problem came after just five laps. It felt like the engine was suffering from a lack of performance and it felt like it locked-up once. The engine was still running so I tried to come back at the riders ahead, but the problem returned. Finally power was dropping off with every lap, so I retired with 11 laps to go. It's a big shame as our tyre choice was good so we have been unlucky. I'm hoping that we will finally get the result we deserve at Laguna next week."

Giulio Bernardelle – Technical Director, KONICA MINOLTA Honda

"Shinya's start was the best we've had so far this year, but we were unlucky as on the fifth lap Shinya suffered the technical trouble. Initially he thought oil was on the rear tyre as he almost had a high-side. He tried to continue for a few more laps, but when he came into the pits we decided it wasn't safe to continue. We're not sure what the problem is at the moment. It's a big shame as we made the correct choice with our race tyre and we stayed on yesterday's suspension settings. Shinya was quite consistent this morning so we were thinking we could have a good race. Let's hope for better luck at Laguna."

German GP - Race results

1) Dani Pedrosa	Honda	41' 53.196"
2) Loris Capirossi	Ducati	42' 06.362"
3) Nicky Hayden	Honda	42' 09.967"
4) Colin Edwards	Yamaha	42' 11.495"
5) Casey Stoner	Ducati	42' 24.622"
Shinya Nakano	Honda	DNF

For more information, please contact: KONICA MINOLTA Honda Press Office

Gianna Targi – E-mail: press@jir-mc.com Telephone: + 39 346 001 37 04

Bertie Simmonds – Telephone: +44 7899 961912



HONDA

HRC



dixell



Classeditori

ecodcm

VUEMME

GIANNELLI

SINTER



DID

Beta

adige

flex

EURODIESEL

