

Brno, Czech Republic, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2007

## ***Front-end chatter holds back KONICA MINOLTA Honda Team at Brno***

Shinya Nakano suffered more of the front-end chatter that's been afflicting his Honda RC212V all season during today's 22-lap race at the Brno circuit in the Czech Republic. Despite a good start the 29-year-old Japanese rider found that the vibrations caused by the 'chatter' from the front-end of his 800cc Honda effectively limited his cornering speed at the 3.2-mile circuit, which relies upon speed through the corners for a good result. Despite the problems, Nakano managed to take more points for 14<sup>th</sup> place and the Team are still upbeat about the potential for the updated RCV212V. Tomorrow they stay on at the Brno circuit for vital development work on the bike, before the final six races of the season.

### **Gianluca Montiron – Team Manager KONICA MINOLTA Honda**

*"With an updated machine for the race our expectations for today were a little different, but tomorrow the Team will test the technical situation and try and eradicate this chattering problem. We need to understand if it's a tyre issue or our machine settings. We will test and hopefully find some positive answer, as Shinya was unable to push hard today and this is the limiting factor. This has been our problem all season, but tomorrow we will work on this new bike and try our best to make some big improvements. It was positive for us that both the factory machines with Nicky Hayden and Dani Pedrosa were competitive which is good for all Honda machines in the future. Monday may not give us any points for the championship but it does give us vital information for the final third of the season."*

### **Shinya Nakano – Rider, KONICA MINOLTA Honda (14th position)**

*"All weekend we've had front-end chattering issues. We tried to fix this problem in warm-up this morning by trying a harder front tyre and we had a little less chattering but after few laps the problem returned and this meant that in the race we couldn't push hard. It's clear to us that the engine is smoother and has more potential, but with this turning problem we cannot use this potential. Tomorrow is a very important test for us to solve the problem of chatter and therefore find better turning ability and corner speed for the last part of the season when we really need to be getting improved results."*

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

*"Despite a good start it was not possible for Shinya to fight with the riders ahead of him. This was because it was not possible to solve the chatter problem from the front-end of the machine and that meant that Shinya couldn't be fast in the corners: especially those turns between T2 T3. Brno is very much a corner speed track and this hurt his lap-times so he fell back from the group ahead. We tested two different construction front tyres this morning, but the chattering problem was almost the same so it was not possible to do anything different. We know the potential of the updated RC212V is better than the standard machine, so we are lucky that we are here to test tomorrow at Brno so we will see if the chatter is a characteristic of the circuit or of the machine and therefore one we need to work on. We will also be testing some different Michelin tyres to see if they will help. Tomorrow's test is very important, as from this test we will plan the last third of the season where good results are so very important to us."*

### **Czech Republic GP - Race results**

1) Casey Stoner	Ducati	43' 45.810"
2) John Hopkins	Suzuki	43' 53.713"
3) Nicky Hayden	Honda	43' 58.910"
4) Dani Pedrosa	Yamaha	44' 01.610"
5) Chris Vermeulen	Suzuki	44' 03.113"
<b>14) Shinya Nakano</b>	<b>Honda</b>	<b>44' 42.879"</b>

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