

Sepang, Malaysia, Sunday 21st October 2007

Shinya Nakano out of the points in Malaysian MotoGP race

Shinya Nakano suffered a disappointing Malaysian Grand Prix today. The 30-year-old KONICA MINOLTA Honda rider spent most of the 21-lap race struggling with front-end issues at the 3.447-mile circuit, which meant he was unable to hold onto the points-winning positions. The Team will now regroup and check the data from today's race to make set-up improvements to their 800cc RC212V machine in time for the final round of the 2007 MotoGP championship in Valencia in two weeks time.

Gianluca Montiron – Team Manager KONICA MINOLTA Honda

"We could see our expectations for the end of the race, because Shinya started off losing a few positions and then making some places back. He was able to make his best lap-time two laps from the end when Anthony West was chasing him. Shinya was finally overtaken by West, which meant that we didn't take any points today. This is very unfortunate for us so close to the end of the season when every point counts. I was very surprised by Shinya's actions after the race and his reaction when he came back to the pit-box. This is not a correct style of behaviour for a professional rider because I have to protect the image of my sponsors and cannot tolerate this sort of attitude. Also for the Team who work so hard for him this is not what they want to see."

Shinya Nakano – Rider, KONICA MINOLTA Honda (16th)

"Today has been very difficult for the Team and myself and I am very disappointed with the result as Sepang is one of my favourite tracks. This morning we improved some settings on the front of the bike and it did feel better than before. I was fighting with Carlos Checa and Nobuatsu Aoki but I couldn't follow them so finally I just tried to keep my lap times consistent and hold position to get that last point. In the last couple of laps Anthony West passed me for the last point. During the race we once more had chattering problems from the front-end of the bike and the machine hasn't turned as well as I would have wanted. As a result my corner speed has been slow and we've struggled a lot. We will all work hard to turn this into a positive result for the last race at Valencia."

Giulio Bernardelle – Technical Director, KONICA MINOLTA Honda

"We made some improvements again this morning and during the race Shinya was able to run in the 2' 04" bracket, which was our best lap time with race setting all weekend but this meant we were really far from the top which wasn't so good. The reason for this is that after a few laps Shinya had more chattering from the front of the bike, which for the rider means that he cannot push hard in the corners, which is Shinya's style. It also makes things difficult when you're fighting for positions in the early laps. This has been a difficult weekend, with the weather being difficult on Friday and us all having to adapt to the new track surface. We have improved, but not enough to solve our problems. We will now head to Valencia hoping that we can continue to make progress as we did before the Malaysian race."

Malaysian GP - Race results

1) Casey Stoner	Ducati	43' 04.405"
2) Marco Melandri	Honda	43' 06.106"
3) Dani Pedrosa	Honda	43' 06.731"
4) Randy de Puniet	Kawasaki	43' 08.170"
5) Valentino Rossi	Yamaha	43' 09.178"
16) Shinya Nakano	Honda	43' 56.131"

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