

MOTOBATT



Rounds 14 & 15 see the Red Bull KTM Ajo Motorsport Team battle hard to retain their places at the top of the Moto2 and Moto3 World Championship standings.

With round 14 taking place at the familiar European circuit of Misano, last weekend saw the championship head to the United States for the first time in two years, as it returned for the Grand Prix of The Americas at COTA. With Remy Gardner and Raul Fernandez achieving their sixth one-two finish at Misano, hopes were high for another excellent result for the recently titled 'Rookie of the Year'. With COTA a new destination for Moto3 rider Pedro Acosta, team-mate

Jaume Masia has fond memories of the circuit where he finished in second place in 2019.

Moto2

Misano, Italy

Round 14

Round 14 of the 2021 MotoGP calendar saw the Red Bull KTM Ajo Motorsport Team notch up another momentous accolade, with Raul Fernandez securing *Rookie of the Year* after scoring his second victory in a row.

The Red Bull KTM Ajo Moto2 enjoyed another dream Sunday at the San Marino Grand Prix, earning their sixth one-two finish of the year with Raul Fernandez first and Remy Gardner second. The Spaniard performed an epic feat in achieving his second consecutive victory – his sixth of the season – overcoming pain in his right hand. Gardner claimed his 11th podium from the 14 races in 2021 to date.



Fernandez took his
7th win at Austin



Starting from the pole position, Fernandez took the holeshot but was subsequently passed by two rivals. Despite pain in his right hand – operated on just a fortnight ago – the Red Bull KTM Ajo talent pushed hard to regain the lead on Lap 9. From that moment on, Fernandez upped his pace and, after setting the fastest lap, opened a small gap. Only his teammate was able to stay with him at the end of the contest. Thanks to this result, the Spaniard becomes the *Rookie of the Year* in Moto2.

Gardner was on the second row of the grid but had a tough opening lap. The Australian then had to work hard to overtake other riders and climb positions. At the halfway point of the race, the World Championship leader hunted down the front group and moved into the podium places for the first time, then set his sights on his teammate. After a scare on the final corners when mounting his challenge for the win, he finished in a deserved second position. Gardner continues to lead the Moto2 World Championship with 271 points. Fernandez is second with 237.

COTA, USA

Round 15

With the team heading west to the USA for the first time this season, it was another impressive result for Fernandez, who claimed his third victory in a row.

Raul Fernandez enjoyed a dream

weekend in Austin, topping every practice session, taking the pole position and winning the race. The Spaniard performed an epic feat in achieving his third consecutive victory – his seventh of the season. The result saw him match the record number of contest victories for a rookie in the intermediate class. Teammate Remy Gardner was on course to join him on the podium but was unable to finish after suffering a crash on Lap 7 when in second position.

Taking off from the pole position, Fernandez used the clear path ahead of him to push hard in the lead in the early stages of the race. His teammate Gardner mounted a brief challenge, but after leaving him behind,



The pairing took their sixth
1-2 finish at Round 14 in Italy



Fernandez was a class above the rest, taking the 'Rookie of the Year' title in Misano

Fernandez proved to be a class above. The Spaniard imposed a change of pace and, after breaking the race lap record, he opened up a gap of more than a second on Lap 3. Fernandez earned his seventh win of the season – the ninth of his career.

Gardner, who started from the second position on the grid, got off the line well. The Australian tried to challenge his teammate for the lead, but was unable to prevent his escape and was left battling amongst the chasing group. Gardner managed to break free of the pack in second place, until an unfortunate crash at Turn 15 of Lap 7 took him out of the race.

Gardner continues to lead the Moto2 World Championship with 271 points. Fernandez is second with 262. Red Bull KTM Ajo Moto2 will return to action at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix from October 22nd-24th.

Moto2 World Championship Team Standing 2021

1. Red Bull KTM Ajo 533 points
2. Elf Marc VDS Racing Team 271 points
3. Sky Racing Team VR46 259 points
4. Idemitsu Honda Team Asia 150 points
5. Inde Aspar Team 147 points

Results (Moto2 Race – COTA)

1. Raul Fernandez (Red Bull KTM Ajo) 39:10.521
2. Fabio Di Giannantonio (Kalex) +1.734
3. Marco Bezzecchi (Kalex) +3.100
4. Augusto Fernandez (Kalex) +4.061
- DNF. Remy Gardner (Red Bull KTM Ajo)

Moto2 World Championship Standing 2021

1. Remy Gardner (Red Bull KTM Ajo) 271 points
2. Raul Fernandez (Red Bull KTM Ajo) 262 points
3. Marco Bezzecchi (Kalex) 206 points
4. Sam Lowes (Kalex) 140 points
5. Augusto Fernandez (Kalex) 131 points

Aki Ajo – Team Manager

“ It was an incredible weekend for Raul [Fernandez]. Getting such a high number of poles and victories in his rookie season was something we couldn't have imagined at the beginning of the year. Again, he showed that he is very strong right now. I want to congratulate him and thank the entire team for the great job they are doing. I also want to thank KTM and Red Bull for helping us achieve these great results. However, today we have conflicting feelings. Remy [Gardner] had a good pace throughout the round, but unfortunately crashed out. That was his first mistake in 2021 and we have to accept that these things can happen. Now we have to stay focused for this championship battle between our two riders that awaits us between now and the end of the campaign. ”



Moto3

Misano, Italy

Round 14

The Red Bull KTM Ajo Moto3 finished the San Marino Grand Prix with a hard race, fighting lap after lap to improve their positions. Jaime Masia was amongst the leading group, reaching the podium spots at times, but finally finished in a creditable fifth place. Pedro Acosta had a tough Sunday at the Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli but would hold on for seventh.

The San Marino Grand Prix began well for Masia, who

took off from the second row of the grid and completed the first lap in fifth position. The Red Bull KTM Ajo Moto3 rider was part of the chasing pack, whilst the race leader broke away before a crash just past the midway point. Masia and the rest of the group kicked off a fierce fight to take a podium place. On the last lap, light contact with another rider put Masia into fifth.

Pedro Acosta had a tough start to the race and dropped from ninth position to 12th off the line. The Red Bull KTM Ajo Moto3 star pushed hard to catch up with the leading group, but after a small scare on Lap 7, he lost contact. Battling to protect his place from then on, the Spaniard took the chequered flag in seventh.

After this round's results, Acosta remains leader of the Moto3 World Championship with 210 points. Masia is fifth with 122.



Acosta continues to lead the 2021 Moto3 championship



Austin, USA

Round 15

The Red Bull KTM Ajo Moto3 duo took fourth and eighth positions, respectively, in a race ended early due to a second red flag.

The Americas Grand Prix race featured two red flags that eventually forced the round to end prematurely. After an incident on Lap 8 an initial 5 lap sprint was set up, but a subsequent crash involving numerous riders called the contest off definitively. Jaume Masia concluded the weekend with a fourth place finish, with Pedro Acosta eighth. The latter suffered a heavy crash from which, fortunately, he emerged unscathed.

Masia took off from the pole position and held the holeshot, before holding off the passing attempts by his rivals and continuing inside the top 5. After the red flag, the Spaniard started from fourth place, and again attempted to set a fast pace. Masia was second when the race was ended definitively, but was given fourth at the Americas GP on the countback.

Acosta, who was on the fifth row on the first start,

pushed hard and, in just five laps, climbed 7 places from 15th to 8th. After the restart, the Spaniard began well, but a scare at the beginning of the second lap of the sprint made him lose several positions. Shortly afterwards, he was one of the riders caught up in an incident involving multiple competitors, and with the race called off the official results were those of the first start. Acosta was awarded eighth position.

Acosta remains the leader of the Moto3 World Championship with 218 points. Masia is 5th with 135.

Now the Red Bull KTM Ajo Moto3 duo will enjoy a short break, before returning to action at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix on October 22-24th.

Moto3 World Championship Team Standing 2021

1. Red Bull KTM Ajo 353 points
2. Gaviota GASGAS Aspar Team 269 points
3. Leopard Racing 220 points
4. Petronas Sprinta Racing 198 points
5. Red Bull KTM Tech 3 180 points

Results (Moto3 Race - COTA)

1. Izan Guevara (GasGas) 15:57.747
2. Dennis Foggia (Honda) +0.385
3. John McPhee (Honda) +0.499
4. **Jaume Masia (Red Bull KTM Ajo) +0.706**
8. **Pedro Acosta (Red Bull KTM Ajo) +1.543**

Moto3 World Championship Standing 2021

1. **Pedro Acosta (Red Bull KTM Ajo) 218 points**
2. Dennis Foggia (Honda) 188 points
3. Sergio Garcia (GasGas) 168 points
4. Romano Fenati (Husqvarna) 138 points
5. **Jaume Masia (Red Bull KTM Ajo) 135 points**

Aki Ajo – Team Manager

“ It was a chaotic day in Moto3. After two red flags, it was a wise decision not to restart again, especially after the dangerous accident in which, fortunately, nothing more serious happened. Jaume [Masia] had a good weekend and, for me, this was a taste of what we can expect from him in the next few races. He was very focused on his work. However, today was tough for him, with everything that happened, as we knew that he could have fought for the victory. Pedro [Acosta] was once again at a new circuit for him and, taking this into account, we can say that he had a great round. Unfortunately, he was involved in the incident caused by another rider, although the important thing is that he escaped unharmed. Without a doubt, we are on the right track in the fight to win the title. ”

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