

three two



Down - but not out!

Red faces all round on Saturday morning when Cole ended what looked like a promising first session by being treated by the [Champions Ride Days](#) paramedics off the side of turn 4 at Queensland Raceway.

Cole and the team would like to extend their sincere thanks to Scott and his team who attended to Cole at the track.

The day started like any other track day except we were all excited to see Cole throw a leg over the Benelli

for the first time.

The bike was beautifully prepared by Julian at [TJ's Performance Centre](#) and Julian was on hand to make sure that the setup would suit Cole's riding

sible for putting the Benelli racing effort in place, for



style.
Cole got to meet Dale Schmidtchen, the Benelli representative who is respon-

the first time.
Getting out for the first session, his first flying lap was a very sedate 1m22, 11 seconds off his best time, getting a feel for the powerful and very "torquey" 3 cylinder engine.

By the end of the 15 minute session, Cole was looking very comfortable and a

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Next Race

Winton (VIC)

Rounds 2 & 3



22nd to 25th
March

Winton 2006
lap times

Superbike
Fastest race lap
1m22.2

Cole's fastest
race lap
1m26.9

Nakedbike
Fastest race lap
1m27.5

Winton test - 6th March

With a seriously bruised body, internal bruising and hardly able to walk or get on and off the bike, Cole braved the planned test at Winton (2 hours north of Melbourne) on Tuesday, getting valuable track time and allowing Alan to gain essential setup information.

The day was perfect for testing and with so few

riders on the track, testing with the factory teams is always such a bonus—thanks to Phil Tainton from [PTR](#) (the factory Suzuki Team

manager and owner) for inviting us and allowing us the benefit of this track time.

Cole was struggling to manhandle the big Suzuki around the tight and very technical 3km long Winton circuit, but bravely soldiered on.

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Down - but not out!

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1m18 lap time proof that he was taking it easy while familiarising himself with the bike.

Then the unthinkable happened—braking and gearing down into turn 3, the rear wheel suddenly locked up - unceremoniously spitting him off the bike.

Unfortunately the bike followed him into the grass, landing on top of him and causing lots of muscle and tissue damage as well as internal bruising —no broken bones but well and truly beaten

up.

We are trying to determine what caused the crash and Julian will be reporting back once he has had a chance to strip the bike and investigate.

Since his last crash at Queensland Raceway nearly 24 months ago, Cole has won 2 championships and many races there



and has done many, many practice days there. This is his favourite track so it is all a bit of a mystery to us.

We will get to the bottom of it all and report back.

Needless to say, we are all just pleased that Cole is OK.

Julian is awaiting some parts and Cole will be out on the Benelli again as soon as possible - hopefully with better news for you.

Winton test report - 6th March



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We soon found that our setup did not suit the Winton track and conditions with the new N Tech Dunlop tyres, which were shredding. And we were not the only team suffering with this problem.

If we had not managed to test, we



Without the test we would have been caught out with a shredding rear tyre

would have struggled with this problem during the tightly scheduled race weekend which could have been disastrous.

Alan was soon diagnosing the problem and managed to limit (and hopefully



stop) the shredding with a spring and setting changes in the rear.

The factory riders were looking good out there, especially the big Suzuki's of Shaun Giles and Craig Coxhill and the 600 Suzuki of Joshua Waters.



As usual, Jamie Stauffer was on top of his game and looking good.

No big crashes and no serious injuries to report for the day.

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