



EmTek Management Services



NEWS RELEASE

RACE REPORT – MONZA

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Well this weekend I was starting off on a high after winning the double at Phakisa just a week earlier. Courtesy Ducati Cafe and Philip Moretanos I paid a brief and all too short visit home only to be drafted into riding at Phakisa and boy what a day.

In qualifying I managed to put the Ducati on pole for Heat 1 and 5th in Heat 2. This was the first time that a Ducati had been on pole (me thinks ever - but this is subject to confirmation).

Heat 1 started quite well and by lap 3 young Clinton Seller and myself broke away to form our race within a race right up to the finish line. I won the race by a comfortable margin not realising what was in store for Heat 2. Starting 5th on the grid is generally not too bad but the Ducati is always a bit of a challenge to get off the line. I worked the bike hard to get through the pack and on the last lap I managed to bomb my way from 5th through to 1st and win by a fraction of a margin from Arushen Moodley. Very exciting racing indeed and there was quite a lot of paint trading places during the last two laps.

I was very satisfied with my first double win of the season for the Ducati Cafe and EmTek Racing entrant.

Monza

This is quite a special track being in Italy and one that has a bit of a "memory lapse" for me after I high-sided going around Curve Grande and hitting the eject button. Both my Suzuki K6 and myself were found floundering in the kitty litter at high speed. Not only was this my challenge for the weekend but also we knew that the track is an exceptionally high speed track and that the Ducati would struggle a bit for top end against the Japanese fours. But we put on a brave face as I was in the same boat as the official factory Ducati team being Team Xerox Ducati.



All of my practice sessions were going well and always inside the top 10 positions and consistently ahead of the two factory Ducati boys. I was not particularly happy with a top 10 start but the Ducati's were taking strain at this high speed circuit.

The weekend before our race here at Monza there was a round of the Italian National championship race at the same track and all of the boys ahead of me had participated in it, so I knew I would battle to catch them easily but I knew it was possible.

For the final qualifying I knew that I had to time my ideal lap perfectly by getting into the slipstream of a Suzuki or Yamaha as the draft from their bike could have easily given me 0.700 of a second. This did not happen, everytime I followed someone they would sit up and mess my hole laptime up. I ended up 10th or 11th and very unsatisfied.

Raceday I was ready as ever to kick butt.

My race got under way with an ok start and bumped me up to 6th position into the first turn, and **NO it was not a jump start!!!**

The leaders pulled out a slight gap on me the first lap but from lap 2,3 and 4 I started to close them down, until my trusty Ducati started over-heating. Unfortunately, this happened because of the constant slipstreaming and no fresh air - however I needed the draft from the other bikes because I knew I would be too slow down the straights (a bit of a catch twenty two for me). I actually got passed by 2 guys down the back straight and just held my own until the end of the race.

I was extremely happy with my laptimes in the race but ending up 7th was a little tough to swallow when I was so confident for a podium position. My main consolation though was crossing the line ahead of the factory Ducati riders who finished 10th (Canepa) and 15th (Roberts) respectively.

Silverstone is next (27th May 2007) and the butterflies are already flowing.....

Again a big thanks to my sponsors and supporters who have stuck by me through thick and thin. I am really hoping to do everyone proud by getting on the podium. Also a big shout out to Jason Hollard from Endo Racing and RS Taichi for the awesome leathers that was flown in at short notice for me. They really do rock.

Remember watch the web pages for more updates www.emtekracing.co.za

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