

# Across the Pond:

## MotoGP Red Bull Grand Prix at COTA

John Miller - *special to Road Rider*  
Pix provided by ML1 Media / Lee Lichtenstein

**B**ikers and bike makers came in droves to Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, for round 2 of the MotoGP Grand Prix and were treated to an epic performance. After a cold, rainy, mechanical trouble plagued qualifying, race day greeted an estimated 120 THOUSAND fans with warm sun, warmer temps, and a smoking hot performance by Repsol Honda's Marc Marquez, who stomped the competition taking the checkered flag by a full 2.3 seconds of ahead of the next rider. It might well have been 2.3 days ahead.

Marquez recovered from his mishap in round 1 (Qatar), and dominated the Red Bull Grand Prix at COTA, at one point leading by over 5 seconds at the .3.426-mile, 20-turn circuit. Andrea Dovizioso took second on the podium for his Ducati Team, as he won a battle with the Movistar Yamaha of Valentino Rossi, who still leads the MotoGP Championship standings.

Starting from his 23rd pole of his MotoGP career, Marquez, the winner of last years race at COTA, had a good get away but slipped back to second at the hairpin turn behind Dovizioso. Behind him and pressing hard was Rossi, the Monster Yamaha Tech 3's of Bradley Smith and two-time MotoGP Champion Jorge Lorenzo on another Movistar Yamaha.



Marquez made his way into the lead going into turn 12 at the back of the straight on lap 5 (of 21), showing the braking and tyre advantage his RC213V possessed. From there,



*Marquez takes a victory, slowing to salute the applause of his crew*

Marquez quickly widened the gap having dialed in his lines lap after lap. He led the remaining 16 laps for his first MotoGP win of 2015, and his third-straight at COTA. Including his spectacular win at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Marquez has now won the last six MotoGP races held in the United States.

With little hope of catching Marquez, Dovizioso was left to battle it out with Valentino Rossi for the second podium spot. The pair brought some genuine excitement to the late stages of the race as they swapped places several times. Dovizioso pulled a stunning pass on Rossi as they changed direction through the esses. Although Rossi looked as if he would challenge the pass, it became clear his hard compound front tyre had little left to pursue that idea and Dovizioso, who had chosen the medium front, hung on to retain second place, actually running out of fuel on his cool-off lap.

Jorge Lorenzo, took the fourth spot after a minor run-in with Andrea Iannone (on the second factory Ducati).



The Italian had to come through from the back of the grid, catching and passing Lorenzo's Yamaha brake into turn one on lap six before surrendering the position on lap 18.



While the factory teams may have a tight grip at the front, the open-spec bikes saw plenty of action in the 25 bike grid. Jack Miller, the only rider carrying the flag for Australia, placed his open spec Honda a respectable 14<sup>th</sup>, just behind Nicky Hayden, also on an open-spec Honda and the only rider carrying the American flag.



Not leaving all the action to the racing itself, the manufactures rolled out eth red carpet for the fans. Ducati set up 'Ducati Island', a live event showcase, with food, music and a magnificent display of bikes. Not to left behind at COTA, Honda, Suzuki, Aprilia, Moto Guzzi, BMW Motorrad, KTM, Yamaha, Victory and Harley-Davidson all set up showcases at the circuit. Fans were able to take demo rides throughout the weekend on Victory, Harley-Davidson, Honda, Suzuki and Yamaha bikes.

*(MotoGP - continued on page 15)*



**On the podium:**  
**Andrea Dovizioso, Marc Marquez, Valentino Rossi**

**UP NEXT: Round 3 – Argentina – April 19  
at Termas de rio Hondo circuit**

### By the Numbers:

#### MotoGP Austin 2015 (round 2):

1. **Marc Marquez** ESP Repsol Honda Team (RC213V) **43m 47.150s**
2. **Andrea Dovizioso** ITA Ducati Team (Desmosedici GP15) **43m 49.504s**
3. **Valentino Rossi** ITA Movistar Yamaha MotoGP (YZR-M1) **43m 50.270s**
4. **Jorge Lorenzo** ESP Movistar Yamaha MotoGP (YZR-M1) **43m 53.832s**
5. **Andrea Iannone** ITA Ducati Team (Desmosedici GP15) **43m 54.734s**
6. **Bradley Smith** GBR Monster Yamaha Tech 3 (YZR-M1) **43m 57.707s**
7. **Cal Crutchlow** GBR CWM LCR Honda (RC213V) **44m 4.117s**
8. **Aleix Espargaro** ESP Team Suzuki Ecstar (GSX-RR) **44m 6.175s**
9. **Maverick Viñales** ESP Team Suzuki Ecstar (GSX-RR)\* **44m 25.720s**
10. **Danilo Petrucci** ITA Pramac Racing (Desmosedici GP14.1) **44m 28.946s**

#### MotoGP Riders' World Championship:

1. **Valentino Rossi** ITA Movistar Yamaha MotoGP (YZR-M1) **41 points**
2. **Andrea Dovizioso** ITA Ducati Team (Desmosedici GP15) **40 points (-1)**
3. **Marc Marquez** SPA Repsol Honda Team (RC213V) **36 points (-5)**
4. **Andrea Iannone** ITA Ducati Team (Desmosedici GP15) **27 points (-14)**
5. **Jorge Lorenzo** SPA Movistar Yamaha MotoGP (YZR-M1) **26 points (-15)**
6. **Bradley Smith** GBR Monster Yamaha Tech 3 (YZR-M1) **18 points (-23)**
7. **Cal Crutchlow** GBR CWM LCR Honda (RC213V) **18 points (-23)**
8. **Aleix Espargaro** SPA Team Suzuki Ecstar (GSX-RR) **13 points (-28)**
9. **Dani Pedrosa** SPA Repsol Honda Team (RC213V) **10 points (-31)**
10. **Danilo Petrucci** ITA Pramac Racing (Desmosedici GP14.1) **10 points (-31)**



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