



GP **AMV Seguros** of Euskadi - Barakaldo

Gomez triumphs in Spain at SuperEnduro World Championship

KTM's **Alfredo GOMEZ (E)** claimed his debut **SuperEnduro** victory at his home round of the **FIM Maxxis SuperEnduro World Championship** in Bilbao, Spain. Having come agonisingly close to winning numerous times, the Spaniard finally made it count to secure the top step of the podium at the penultimate round of the series. After a hectic night of racing **Gomez** was joined on the podium by teammate **Jonny WALKER (GB)** in second and Husqvarna's **Colton HAAKER (USA)** third. In the Junior class, Yamaha's **Blake GUTZEIT** of South Africa made it two wins in a row with the overall victory in Bilbao.

"*Incredible,*" told **GOMEZ** after the podium celebrations. "*I've worked so hard for so long to get this victory and to finally do it on home turf is amazing. It's been a great night. Thank you to KTM, Red Bull, my family and everyone who's made it possible.*" Faced with a tough and challenging course for round three of the series, the penultimate stop of the championship proved a demanding one for all. Quick to set his marker, **WALKER** laid down the fastest time in the Akrapovic SuperPole.

With the gate dropping on the opening Prestige race, the action quickly heated up. **WALKER, GOMEZ** and **HAAKER** were all in close contention with each rider sharing the lead at least once. Mistakes dropped **HAAKER** back to an eventual third as **WALKER** and **GOMEZ** went at it for the win. **GOMEZ** attacked at every opportunity but **WALKER** — yet to win a heat race this season — was not going to let this one slip away. Hanging it out just that little bit more, he hung on to claim his first win of the 2017 series with **GOMEZ** second.



With the starting order reversed for race two it was Husqvarna's **Pascal RAUCHENECKER (A)** who led the opening lap, but **GOMEZ** had carved his way to the front and quickly took over. It was a lead he wouldn't relinquish. This time around **HAAKER** rode it home for a steady second. The fight for third went down to the final corner between **WALKER** and **Mario ROMAN (S-Sherco)** with **Roman** snatching it in the final metres, pushing **WALKER** back to fourth.

With everything to play for in the final race, victory for either **WALKER** or **GOMEZ** would mean the overall victory too. Both riders shot out to the front immediately as mistakes dropped **HAAKER** out of play with the duo in third. Neck-and-neck the KTM riders fought for victory only for **GOMEZ** to finally come good in the end. *"It's been an amazing night,"* told **GOMEZ**. *"The racing has been so close. Both Jonny and myself really wanted this victory, thankfully it came my way."* Second in heat three ended the night as runner-up for **WALKER**... *"I think that's the best I've rode this season so far,"* told **WALKER**. *"I feel like I'm starting to find my form again. It was great to get a race win and almost take the overall victory."* Ending his night without a race win, **HAAKER** still finished on the podium in third and maintains the overall point's lead heading to the season finale in Albi, France on March 18th. Putting in another solid performance, **ROMAN** brought his Sherco home in fourth overall. Returning to SuperEnduro action having missed Germany due to illness, KTM's **Manuel LETTENBICHLER (D)** completed the top five.



In the Junior class it was another overall win for **GUTEIT**. Ending his night with a 2-1-2 scorecard, the young South African moves ever closer to claiming the world title. Returning to top form following a tough night at round two, TM Racing's **Ben HERRERA** of Chile claimed a much deserved race win in heat three to end his night third overall. Making a startling debut in SuperEnduro, South African **Travis TEASDALE (KTM)** claimed a stunning win in heat one before going on to end his night on the podium in third. Spain's **Ignacio FERNANDEZ (Sherco)** was fourth with **Kevin GALLAS (KTM)** fifth.

The **FIM Maxxis SuperEnduro World Championship** concludes with the fourth and final round of the season in **Albi**, France on March 18.



Results

Prestige

Heat 1 : 1. WALKER ; 2. GOMEZ ; 3. HAAKER ; 4. ROMAN ; 5. LETTENBICHLER ; 6. LEON; 7. RAUCHENECKER; 8. JUAN BERNABEU; 9. ADDESSO; 10. SALSENCH...

Heat 2: 1. GOMEZ; 2. HAAKER; 3. ROMAN; 4. WALKER; 5. LETTENBICHLER; 6. LEON; 7. RAUCHENECKER; 8. JUAN BERNABEU; 9. ADDESSO; 10. SALSENCH...

Heat 3: 1. GOMEZ; 2. WALKER; 3. HAAKER; 4. LETTENBICHLER; 5. ROMAN; 6. LEON; 7. RAUCHENECKER; 8. ADDESSO; 9. BERNABEU, 10. SALSENCH...

SuperPole powered by Akrapovic: 1.WALKER; 2. GOMEZ; 3. HAAKER...

Standing: 1. HAAKER 165pts; 2. GOMEZ 154pts; 3. WALKER 146pts; 4. ROMAN 98pts; 5. RAUCHENECKER 77pts; 6. LETTENBICHLER 62pts; 7. BLAZUSIAK 58pts; 8. BROWN 56pts; 9. SALSENCH 48pts; 10. UUSNA 47pts...

Junior

Heat 1: 1. TEASDALE; 2. GUTZEIT ; 3. FERNANDEZ; 4. GALLAS; 5. B.HERRERA; 6. APOLLE; 7. CYPRIAN; 8. BURY; 9. HUMPHREYS; 10. FLACK...

Heat 2: 1. GUTZEIT; 2. B.HERRERA; 3. GUTZEIT; 4. HOARE; 5. APOLLE; 6. TEASDALE; 7. HUMPHREYS; 8. FLACK; 9. GALLAS; 10. CYPRIAN ...

Heat 3: 1. B.HERRERA; 2. GUTZEIT; 3. TEASDALE; 4. GALLAS; 5. CYPRIAN; 6. FERNANADEZ; 7. HOARE; 8. HUMPHREYS; 9. D.HERRERA; 10. APOLLE...

Standing: 1. GUTZEIT 157pts; 2. B.HERRERA 127pts; 3. CYPRIAN 81pts; 4. HUMPHREYS 80pts; 5. APOLLE 80pts;

6. FERNANDEZ 73pts; 7. GALLAS 70pts; 8. HOARE 63pts; 9. VIAL 60pts; 10. SEALEY 51pts...



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