

## Merci Johann

Two-time Moto2 World Champion rounds off great season by winning his last race in the class in Valencia.

**11/13/2016 - Ricardo Tormo Circuit, Spain**

Johann Zarco ended his time in the Moto2 class with a victory in Valencia today, signing off in the best way possible. The Frenchman, proclaimed World Champion for the second time two weeks ago in Malaysia, placed first at the Valencia GP after an intense fight with Franco Morbidelli, crossing the finish line on his own for win number seven of the season.

Starting from pole position, the Ajo Motorsport rider carried out a perfect strategy planned alongside his team. Despite not being able to leave his rivals behind during the opening laps, Zarco remained at the front and demonstrated his ability to handle the situation. After an entertaining battle with Morbidelli at the halfway point in the race, he managed to impose his pace and break away for the win.

The Valencia GP marked the end of a dreamed two years for Johann Zarco and Ajo Motorsport, in which they have won two World Championships, taking 15 victories and a further 9 podiums.

### **Aki Ajo - Team Manager**

"It has been a wonderful end to this two-year project for Ajo Motorsport and Johann Zarco in Moto2. Of course we did not expect something like this when we put the project together with this group, the sponsors and of course, Johann Zarco as a rider. Expectations were very high since we started planning this project, but no one had even dreamed of it being as successful as this, with two World Championships. These have been good moments for all those who have worked very hard for this, and they are all very talented people: Johann [Zarco] as our rider, Laurent [Fellon], his family and all those working on the team, the crew led by Massimo Branchini and the sponsors. Thank you all."

### **Results – Race**

- 1. Johann Zarco (Ajo Motorsport) 43:17.626**
2. Thomas Luthi (Kalex) +3.281
3. Franco Morbidelli (Kalex) +4.981
4. Sam Lowes (Kalex) +5.636
5. Alex Rins (Kalex) +5.850

### **Moto2 World Championship Standing 2016**

- 1. Johann Zarco (Ajo Motorsport) 276 points**
2. Thomas Luthi (Kalex) 234 points
3. Alex Rins (Kalex) 214 points
4. Franco Morbidelli (Kalex) 213 points
5. Sam Lowes (Kalex) 175 points



## 5 JOHANN ZARCO

"I don't have much to say, I just want to enjoy the moment to the maximum. I am very happy because the race strategy worked out very well. Yesterday I was happy to be starting from pole, but when I analysed the session I saw that I was lacking a few tenths, and that it would be difficult to follow Franco [Morbidelli] and Thomas [Luthi]. Also, I was lucky to be first because they never put in a perfect lap.

So I thought that today I should take the opportunity, not let them escape and fight from the beginning to feel better. Everything worked out great, exactly as we wanted; first we were able to take a big gap over second place when we were 15 laps in, and at the end we got the victory. It's the perfect way to sign off, and I want to thank the team because once again they have shown that they can give me a bike that gives me confidence and allows me to attack."

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## Brad Binder says goodbye to Moto3 with brilliant comeback and victory

Red Bull KTM Ajo World Champions regains 21 positions and takes his seventh victory of the season. Bo Bendsneyder finishes in the points once again, in 13th.

11/13/2016 - Ricardo Tormo Circuit, Spain

The Red Bull KTM Ajo team rounded off 2016 in the best possible way, finishing the season at with a win thanks to Moto3 World Champion Brad Binder. The South African handed the team their third consecutive win at the Ricardo Tormo Circuit, where they have dominated in recent years, and ended his time in the class with a stellar performance. Climbing from 21st place, Binder earned his seventh win of the season and signed off in style. Bo Bendsnevder. who started 20th due to penalty handed to him

after qualifying, finished in the second group fighting for the Top 10. He crossed the line in 13th place.

At the start of the contest, Binder up into the top positions, although a problem on Lap 2 dropped him back down to 22nd. Despite being 5 seconds off the race leader, he used a steady pace to climb up the order lap-by-lap, reaching the lead group with 10 laps remaining. He took the lead with 3 laps to go, and after several back-and-forth overtaking moves on the penultimate lap, took the top spot definitively on the final lap of the season to take victory number seven.

Bendsneyder had qualified eighth for the Valencian GP, but was forced to start from 20th due to a penalty. The Red Bull KTM Ajo rookie had to fight to get into the points and a good start put him fifteenth on the opening lap. Throughout the race he was part of a nine-strong group of riders battling for tenth, and finally finished thirteenth.

With the Valencian GP concluded, Brad Binder ends the year as World Champion with 319 points. From next week he will ride the Red Bull KTM Ajo Moto2 bike as he moves up to the intermediate class. Bendsneyder ends the year in 14th place with 78 points, and will begin preparation for the 2017 Moto3 season next week season with two days of testing -alongside new teammate, Niccolò Antonelli.

### **Aki Ajo – Team Manager**

"It is difficult to find the words to define this season. Before the race started it was a very emotional day for Brad [Binder] and the performance he gave us, despite the problems at the beginning, is another example of what he has been able to do on the bike all season. It's been a historic season, in a way. I am very grateful to be able to work with riders like him and with a team like ours. Bo [Bendsneyder] finished the race well. He didn't feel good with new tyres, but as the laps went by he was able to find a good pace and do well. I am happy because he has finished the season well, and in the coming weeks he will continue working with the team to improve for next year."

### **Results – Race**

- 1. Brad Binder (Red Bull KTM Ajo) 40:13.777**
2. Joan Mir (KTM) +0.056
3. Andrea Migno (KTM) +0.081
4. Enea Bastianini (Honda) +0.147
5. Fabio Di Giannantonio (Honda) +0.713
- 13. Bo Bendsneyder (Red Bull KTM Ajo) +8.603**

### **Moto3 World Championship Standing 2016**

- 1. Brad Binder (Red Bull KTM Ajo) 319 points**
2. Enea Bastianini (Honda) 177 points
3. Jorge Navarro (Honda) 150 points
4. Francesco Bagnaia (Mahindra) 145 points
5. Joan Mir (KTM) 144 points

#### 14. Bo Bendsneyder (Red Bull KTM Ajo) 78 points



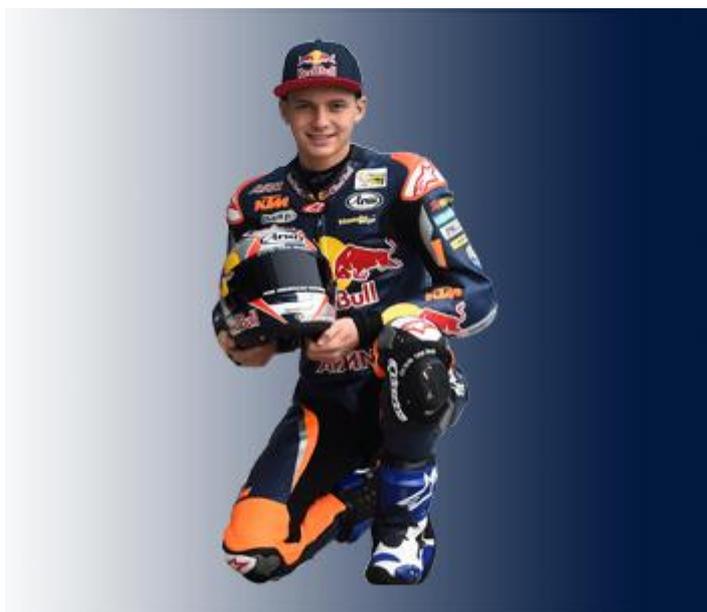
#### 64 BO BENDSNEYDER

"I can not say that I am completely happy about today. The bike worked great; with new tyres it behaved a little nervously, but once they began to wear I gained more confidence and a better feeling and went faster. From the second half of the race to the end I had a great pace, but I lost a lot in the first seven or eight laps. The penalty was a shame, but it was my mistake and I need to work on it. In the end, we came back from 20th to 13th and we earned three points that allow us to finish in 14th position overall, so I am quite happy. I want to thank the whole team and above all Aki [Ajo] for believing in me; It was a good season for us. We have taken two podiums and quite a few Top 10 finishes. I'm already looking forward to Wednesday's test."

#### 41 BRAD BINDER

"I wanted to finish my time in Moto3 with a victory, but I did not expect to do so. Something happened to me, but I could not understand it and I moved aside to see if everything was in place. I lost two laps checking that the bike was working well before I pushed hard again. To come back and win the race was incredible. I am very happy and I cannot be more grateful to the team for the incredible year we have had.

Now it's time to think about Moto2. I had been counting the days to get on the new bike. It is very important for me to move to a higher class and I am very motivated. This season has gone much better than I expected, and winning the title with four races to go and getting seven wins is incredible. I'm on cloud nine and I can only thank the team."



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