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EMX 125 and 250 at Mantova (Italy)



The super fun and jumpy sand circuit of Mantova played host to the eighth and sixth rounds of the EMX 250 and EMX 125 presented by FMF Racing championships where Team Suzuki World MX2's Bas Vaessen and KTM Silver Action's Stephen Rubini topped the box in their respective classes.

EMX 250 (photo1)

Not many American riders race the world's number one amateur series, the European Championship EMX 250, so when one decides to take the plunge and give it a whirl, it's exciting to see his progression and what he learns.

American Darian Sanayei took on the challenge this year and has been getting faster and stronger with each and every round. In Race 1 on Saturday, the youngster onboard a Bud Racing Monster Energy Kawasaki took the holeshot ahead of the championship leader Bodo Schmidt Motosport's Thomas Kjer Olsen. Olsen sat behind Sanayei for the first handful of laps before making a move for the lead. Sanayei said, "I got a good start but I wasn't riding that good, I couldn't see anyone's lines so when Thomas passed me I just



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tried to follow him and see where he's going". Which is exactly what he did before finding his own set of good lines, and impressively passed the Red Plate holder back. After taking the lead, the 457 of Sanayei controlled the race for his fourth race win of the season. Olsen was second while Team Suzuki World MX2's Bas Vaessen was third.

In Race 2 on Sunday Bud Racing Monster Energy Kawasaki's Darian Sanayei timed the gate perfectly for his second holeshot of the weekend ahead of KTM Factory Juniors Josiah Natzke and Team Suzuki World MX2's Bas Vaessen. Tip Top MP32 Yamaha's Mathys Boisrame was in fourth before being knocked back to fifth by the championship leader Bodo Schmidt Motorsports Thomas Kjer Olsen who used him as a berm half of a lap in.

There was some real excitement, as Olsen took no prisoners on his way forward. He muscled Natzke out of the way for third and started chipping away at the 4-second gap of Vaessen who was in second.

Sanayei was looking super fast and super smooth out front before his bike locked up and chucked him off. When he tried to re-start it, it was seized solid, which was a devastating end to what should have been an awesome weekend. In contrast, Vaessen was in his element this weekend and actually pulled away from Kjer Olsen for a massive victory, his first of the season.

The Dutch are renowned for their sand riding skills, so while it was random to see Honda's Cerial Klein Kromhof finish third, it possibly wasn't THAT random. Swede Anton Gole managed to get Natzke on the last lap for fourth while the Kiwi, Natzke managed to hold on for fifth, which was by far his best result of this year.

Happy days for Team Suzuki World MX2's Bas Vaessen who admitted "I finally was able to cross the line in first, I'm always there or close, but I did it today, so it's good". The Dutchman hit two milestones this weekend with his first race win and first overall victory of the season. Bodo Schmidt Motorsport's Thomas Kjer Olsen has finished on the podium at every single round and kept that podium streak alive with a second place overall, while Anton Gole uncorked his second bottle of bubbles this season in third.

EMX 125 (photo2)

In Race 1 on Saturday, it was the little Italian star onboard a De Carli KTM, Gianluca Facchetti, who pulled the holeshot and led the first couple of laps before he got bucked off the pegs in a choppy part of the track and looped out. Bud Racing Monster Energy Kawasaki's Kim Savaste then inherited the lead and inched away, but was unable to withstand the eventual pressure of KTM Silver Action's Stephen Rubini who was flying. Rubini passed Savaste with a couple of laps to go and took the checkers for the sixth time this season. Savaste took second, while the championship leader Sahkar KTM's Jago Geerts overcame some adversity, which included a bit of gymnastics when he cartwheeled it in the latter



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stages of the race, for third ahead of Facchetti, and Bud Racing Monster Energy Kawasaki's Brian Strubhart Moreau.

In Race 2, IceOne Husqvarna's Mikkel Haarup took the holeshot ahead of De Carli KTM's Gianluca Facchetti and Italy's Mattia Guadagnini. Sahkar KTM's Jago Geerts was in fourth, but not for long as he made light work of Guadagnini for third on lap two.

The two hot shots from Race 1, KTM Silver Actions Stephen Rubini and Bud Racing Monster Energy Kawasaki's Kim Savaste were buried at the back of the pack and were left with a lot of work to do in order to catch the front-runners.

Facchetti managed to out brake Haarup for the lead on lap three, which was only the start of Haarup's problems as Geerts started upping the pace in third. After taking chunks out of Haarup's 4 second advantage, Geerts got close enough to show Haarup a wheel and after a lap of literally trying everything, he took a chance at hammering a berm to pass the Dane around the outside and it worked.

Geerts was out to cause an upset among the rowdy Italian fans that wanted to see Facchetti win here on home soil, while Haarup sat back and waited for one of them to make a mistake. With 5 minutes to go, the trio of Facchetti, Geerts and Haarup were switching



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between attack and defense as they swapped positions, which played right into the hands of KTM Silver Action's race one winner Stephen Rubini.

Eventually Geerts managed to find his rhythm and gapped it for his sixth win of the season with a healthy 10 second lead over his biggest rival in the championship Rubini. Haarup managed to get the better of Facchetti with a few laps to go, which left him with a season best finish of third place while Facchetti chilled back in fourth, 12 seconds clear of Bud Racing Monster Energy Kawasaki's Brian Strubhart Moreau.

With a 1-2 result, KTM Silver Action's Stephen Rubini took his fourth round victory of the season while the championship leader Sahkar KTM's Jago Geerts went 3 - 2 for second. De Carli KTM's Gianluca Facchetti put a smile on the faces of thousands of fans out here in Mantova with his 4 - 4 for third.

Full results on FIM Europe website: <http://www.fim-europe.eu/events/227>

Photos courtesy of @Youthstream.

The actual issue of FIM Europe MAG is online and can be downloaded [here](#).

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