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Yamaha R3 bLU cRU European Cup:
Ruiz and Bergamini share honours
in opening Yamaha R3 bLU cRU European Cup races



Yeray Ruiz and Denis Bergamini were the first winners of the 2022 Yamaha R3 bLU cRU European Cup at MotorLand Aragón, with the Italian and Spaniard both sharing the championship lead, having also scored third-place finishes.

Having qualified on pole position in Superpole session, Spanish youngster Ruiz maintained his lead by the end of the first lap, before Brazil's Enzo Valentim hit the front on the second tour.

Seven riders were involved in the lead battle for the opening five laps, but as they headed onto the sixth, Ruiz and Valentim pulled clear. The two constantly swapped places through



the closing stages, but it was 18-year-old Ruiz who would eventually take victory, beating his 17-year-old rival by 0.273s across the line to win on debut.

Bergamini won the titanic battle for third, with Brazil's Kevin Fontainha and Spain's Marc Vich less than a tenth behind. Italian rider Andrea Pizzoli headed Slovakia's Maxim Repak for sixth, while Indonesian youngster Wahyu Nugroho in eighth. French rider Clément Rougé and Free Practice pace-setter Eduardo Burr of Brazil rounded out the top 10.

In Race 2, a mammoth battle for victory saw 12 riders in the fight throughout the nine-lap contest. Ruiz and Valentim looked to have the pace again early on, but Repak, Bergamini, Fontainha, Nugroho, Gustavo Manso and Pizzoli were all able to force their way to the front of the pack.

Heading onto the back straight on the final lap, Bergamini made his move, with Fontainha and Pizzoli chasing him right to the line. The three were split by thousandths of a second, but the 19-year-old Italian held on for victory.

Fontainha was second, with Pizzoli handed a penalty for track limits on the final lap, seeing Ruiz promoted to third. Nugroho just missed out on a podium in fourth, ahead of Repak and Valentim. Vich was seventh, with Pizzoli classified in eighth after the penalty, ahead of fellow countryman Diego Palladino and Brazil's Manso.

The top 10 were separated by just 0.469s at the finish, showing just how competitive the Yamaha R3 bLU cRU European Cup will be in 2022.

The young bLU cRU riders will be back on-track in two weeks' time for the second round at TT Circuit Assen, which was won by WorldSSP300 riders Humberto Maier and eventual Cup winner Iker Garcia Abella last year.

EMX 125 European Championship and EMX Open European Championship: Fueri and Tropepe win second round of EMX125 and EMX Open in Trentino

Rounds two of the EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing and EMX Open Championships have concluded in Pietramurata with Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Alexis Fueri and Millionair Racing Team's Giuseppe Tropepe taking to the top step in their classes for the round of Trentino.

Fueri had the perfect weekend, celebrating a lot of firsts, including first race win, first 1-1 scorecard, first overall victory and first time leading the EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing championship. Meanwhile Tropepe enjoyed his own success, winning in front of his home crowd here in Italy as he celebrated his first win in the EMX Open category.



In EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing heat one, it was Alexis Fueri of Fantic Factory Team Maddii who led the way ahead of Julius Mikula, Elias Escandell of RFME GASGAS MX JUNIOR TEAM along with Maximilian Werner of KTM Kosak Team who was right there also. A few riders went down in the first corner, this included Janis Martins Reisulis. Meanwhile timed practice winner Ferruccio Zanchi of Yamaha Europe EMX125 MJC's started down in



seventh, with the championship leader Cas Valk of Fantic Factory Team Maddii also starting outside the top 10.

Though Valk was very impressive in the opening lap as he was quick to make some passes and get himself into third. A lap later he also took second from Mikula as Yamaha Europe EMX125 MJC's Karlis Alberts Reisulis got himself into fifth.

Zanchi then crashed as he showed down in 36th and did not finish the race, which was costly for his championship chase. Ivano Van Erp of Yamaha Europe EMX125 also crashed as he showed down in 31st.

K. Reisulis then passed Elias Auclair for fourth and a lap later the Latvian was ahead of Mikula too as he got himself into third after a nice battle with the rider from Czech Republic. Auclair then dropped to 7th as Escandell and Matteo Luigi Russi of Tech 32 went by. Auclair eventually did not finish the last two laps of the race.

Back at the front, Fueri was looking comfortable as he extended his lead over his teammate Valk. Though further behind them, Mikula crashed out of fourth and got going again in around eighth.

The focused shifted back to the front of the pack in the closing stages, as Fueri made a mistake which cost him previous time and allowed Valk to close right in. In the final few laps, we were treated to a close battle between the teammates for the race victory, with Valk not backing down until the pair crossed the line, as Fueri held on to win the race by just 0.533 seconds! K. Reisulis was third ahead of Escandell and Russi.

In the second race, there was some commotion in the start as a few riders went down in the first corner, this included championship leader Valk along with the likes of J. Reisulis and Mikula. Though it was Holiver Brizio who led the way with Antonio Gallego of RFME GASGAS MX JUNIOR TEAM, Fueri and Vitezslav Marek just behind.

By the beginning of the second lap, Fueri was already in the lead, as K. Reisulis got himself into 10th after passing Jaka Peklaj of SIXTYTWO Motorsport Husqvarna. The Latvian then made two more swift passes as he moved into to 8th and continued his charge to the front. By the fourth lap, K. Reisulis was already in fourth as he set his sights on Marek and Gallego ahead. Marek was looking faster as he pushed the Spaniard but could not find a way around

him until K. Reisulis went by both and only then Marek could find his own opportunity to get around.

Meanwhile Valk was making good progress as he edged closer to the top 10, while Fueri was getting comfortable in the lead as he had more than a 7 second lead over K. Reisulis who was second.

Fueri's lead only continued to grow and by the chequered flag the Frenchman was 18.556 seconds ahead as he secured another race victory. K. Reisulis was second as Marek held on to third ahead of Van Erp who made a great comeback from the back of the field to fourth. Mikula also made a good recovery as he fought back to fifth. Meanwhile Valk managed to fight back to eighth.

With the perfect 1-1 score, Fueri took to the top step of the podium, ahead of K. Reisulis and Valk. A strong weekend here in Trentino for Fueri also means that he now leads the championship by nine points over Valk who is second, as K. Reisulis sits in third.



In EMX Open race one, it was Michael Sandner of Raths Motorsports who led the way ahead of Stefano Pezzuto, Raf Meuwissen of Raths Motorsports and Giuseppe Tropepe of



Millionair Racing Team. Tom Grimshaw of Chambers Racing started well too and was running in fifth behind the leaders.

A couple of riders got caught up in a first turn crash, this included Jose Butron of JD Gunnex KTM Racing Team as well as Marcel Stauffer from Sturm STC Racing Team.

On the opening lap, Sandner crashed out of the lead which gave Pezzuto a FastTrack ticket into first place as Grimshaw snuck past Meuwissen into third.

While Sandner dropped quite a few positions as a result of his crash, he was quick to make some good passes after that, in order to catch-up with Brad Anderson who was fifth at the time. Anderson was defensive, but Sandner was able to get past him by the sixth lap.

Pezzuto led until lap six, as Tropepe was able to close in and make a pass stick. At the same time Sandner and Tomas Kohut of Osicka MX Team closed in on Anderson. Both eventually passed the Brit who dropped down to 13th by the end of the race.

Grimshaw then began to struggle as he was caught and passed by Meuwissen and Sandner, with the Austrian taking over third by the ninth lap.

Tropepe was getting comfortable at the sharp end, as he led Pezzuto by 3.967 seconds. Butron though was edging closer to the top ten and a few laps later the Spaniard, along with Simon Jost of Osicka MX Team and Jens Getteman passed Grimshaw, as the Brit eventually dropped down to 12th.

Butron continued his charge forward as he got by Kohut and then Meuwissen for fifth, as Meuwissen was also passed by Kohut and later Jost to eventually finish the race in 8th.

Tropepe went on to win the opening heat ahead of Pezzuto, Sandner, Stauffer and Butron who were the top five.

In race two, it was Sandner who led into the first corner, Tropepe was second ahead of Kohut and Croci, but Croci was fast to make a pass on Kohut to move into third. Meanwhile, just like in race one, Butron along with Stauffer, Krestinov and Anderson got caught in the first turn crash involving quite a few riders.

Stauffer made some nice passes on the opening laps and was already in 11th by the third lap with Meuwissen just ahead of him. But at the front of the field, Tropepe was closing



in on the leader, as he set the fastest lap of the race, though Sandner was quick to respond bettering that time and giving himself some breathing room from the Italian in second. De Bortoli went out of the second race, as he saw his championship go from bad to worse. Kohut then started to push Croci for third, as Jost passed Pregel for fifth while Sandner got comfortable in the lead as he stretched it to 7.068 seconds.

In the closing stages of the race the fight for third between Croci and Kohut intensified as the pair made contact, with Kohut diving down the inside of Husqvarna rider to not only take third but solidify his spot on the podium.

Sandner went on to win the race ahead of Tropepe and Kohut. Though the podium looked a little different as Tropepe's 1-2 result gave him the upper hand and a ticket to the top step of the podium, with Sandner second and Kohut on the third step of the box.

After round two, Sandner continues to lead the EMX Open Championship and is 24 points clear of Butron who remains second ahead of Meuwissen who is third with 60 points.