

2008 AMA Superbike/Formula Xtreme

ROUND 11: Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca

Monterey, California • September 27-28, 2008



by
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sponsored rider

Laguna Seca Finale

Things have been difficult the last 4 weeks trying to recover from the bad wreck at Atlanta. For some of you that don't know, I fell hard after Bobby Fong crashed in front of me and ended up breaking my hand. I had surgery the following day that included pins being placed in my right hand. Those pins weren't removed until last Monday, just 4 days before I would get on the bike at Laguna.

Going into the weekend my hand was still really sore and swollen. It was my right hand, so I knew it was going to be hard to control the bike. I was going to only ride FX since my bad luck this season in SuperSport had

me outside the points. And the main goal was to not only finish the race but also make sure I finished top 3 in points for the season. I was a handful of points away from second but only a few points ahead of fourth.

Practice on Saturday went well, just working on my set-up and trying not to over-work my hand. Ended up 5th fastest in practice and qualified about the same in 6th.

In the race I think I got my best start of the year! This year I have really struggled on my starts. The jump was so good I ended up side by side with Zemke for first in the first and second lap. I think I could've challenged him for the lead but it wasn't worth risking what could have happened. Lap 2 Hayes got around me & took off with Zemke. The majority of the race from then on I was all by myself in 3rd, just trying to stay smooth. In a few corners I had to work a little harder than normal since I had to

keep repositioning my hand. With 3 laps to go I felt a bike behind me, wasn't sure who it was though. Then coming into one of the slower corners Martin Cardenas came under me. He came in a little hot so I was able to get back around him. We battled back and forth all the way till the last corner and I ended up in 3rd.

My finish for the year was much better than what I expected. I was only looking to stay out of trouble but ended up on the podium!! And even better 3rd overall for the season!!!!

MotoSport was a great sponsor for me this year, I bought products from them in the past for my bikes and will continue to do so, and it was just a bonus for me to be able to help them grow into road racing.

Thank you, Steve, for an exciting race season.

[—Ed.]