



The second round of the Victorian Road Race Championships at Phillip Island. I was feeling very ill on Saturday and Sunday.

On the Friday for the practise day it was wet so we were running the 125 for the first time in the wet at Phillip Island. In the first practise for the day I felt really confident and fast in the wet.

It was wet for the first two sessions up to lunch then in lunch it dried out and we changed over to slicks for the dry and went out on the spare bike to see what it was like around Phillip Island in the dry as we have not ridden it there before. Because it had a heavier crank it pulled a lot better through the high speed corners and I could get a better run onto the straight with the spare bike than the good bike. It did not tip in as well as the other bike did.

There was two more sessions left for the practise day so we got the good bike ready and went out in the fourth practise. I felt comfortable on the bike but I was off the pace by four seconds.

The next session out I was the same pace and felt the same on the bike. The bike was running good and I felt good for the weekend.

However that was not the way I was feeling. I woke up that morning with little energy and a sore throat. I still wanted to ride and I was able to do so.

There were two 15 minute qualifying sessions and in the first one I did not feel the best and was missing my tip in points and all my markers. I was feeling very bad on the bike. The second qualifying I felt a bit better and I did a lap time of 1.52.380. I got sixth on the grid for the races on the weekend.

There was three seven lap races all up on the weekend, there was only one on Saturday. In the first race I got a good start and only lost one place but soon passed the 400 back into turn 4. I was then starting to just remind myself that I'm not 100% and to not do anything stupid. I started to pull a gap and on lap four I was getting a bit fatigued and had to really concentrate on what I was doing. I then had a 400 behind me and he passed me into turn 10 on lap 6 and I got him back on the straight. On the last lap he got passed me around turn 9 after he got good drive through the back section. I passed him on the line and got third overall by 0.10 of a second, and first 125.



**Photo courtesy of Russell Colvin**

On Sunday there was a one lap warm up but I was still a bit ill so we didn't worry about it.

In the first race on Sunday I got a really good start and got into turn 1 in fourth. I stayed with the leading group until the straight where the speed of their bike pulled away from the 125. I was riding by myself all race and doing constant lap times. I was starting to get fatigued on the last lap but I still came away with fourth overall and half a second quicker lap time than the race on Saturday.

In the last race for the weekend I got a bad start and fell back to ninth off the line but then passed all of them into turn 1 and made it to fifth. I was then stuck behind another 125 and passed him on the third lap and then pulled a three second gap every lap and ended up with a ten second gap at the end of the race.

I finished third overall for the weekend in the Moto3 and 125 combined class. I got a top speed of 209 km/h and in the last race did a lap time of 1.49.286, I lowered my lap time very race.

I would not be able to go as good if Gesmond Catania didn't help fix the bike when it was running bad on Saturday. Also a huge thanks to Terry and Jed Metcher for helping me to improve. My Dad and my sponsors are why I'm racing:

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