



The last round for the 2017 Australian Superbike Championships was held at Phillip Island on the 6-8 of October. I came into the round 28 points behind the leaders of the Moto3 Class who were tied on point after the first two rounds. We got lucky with the weather dodging the rain and having a dry track all weekend.

We started off with Friday practise having three sessions of practice before the racing started. The wind was really strong all day long reaching a top of 77km/h strong winds making the bike handle different. Overall we managed to produce a time of 1min50.343, which I posted in the third and final session this afternoon on my fifth and final lap, which was good enough for fourth place in the overall combined times. We finished in third place in the first and second practice session, but for the last session, I was fifth as there was spitting rain. I felt comfortable on the bike and confident heading into qualifying and the first race tomorrow.

We really struggled in qualifying and ended up fourth place on the grid for the three races. Fourth overall is not quite where we wanted to be, in terms of lap times. I had a few corners which I could try and improve my lap times, which are turns one, four, five and nine. I knew that I was off the pace a little bit and I had to step it up for the race.

I got a bad start, however I still remained in fourth. The bike I was battling with had a slight advantage then me in a straight line by 5km/h and he had done the MotoGP wildcard at Phillip Island for two years. I made a move on lap two at turn ten and moved up to third but got passed down the straight. By lap three, I moved into third under brakes at turn four and pulled a gap. The front two riders were riding really fast and I was unable to keep with them then on the fourth lap they both crashed at turn 5. I thought I had a race win as there was a gap to the rider behind me but unfortunately there was another crash at turn 2 which caused a red flag. Race control declared the race even though we had only done three out of eight laps. They took the race back one lap as we were halfway through our fourth lap and I ended up third.



**Photo: Russell Colvin**

Before the first race on Sunday it started raining making it very difficult to choose what bike to go out on. Just before my race started the sun came out and dried most of the track besides for the back section before the run onto the straight. We went with the dry set up and lucky we did as the track dried out by the end of it. Unfortunately one of the front runners involved in the crash on Saturday had sustained an injury and was not fit to race for the rest of the weekend. I hung with the front for a few laps but had a few little moments and just backed off a little bit to finish third..

The last race, I just rode to finish and ended up with third again but enough points to come home with second for the weekend and second in the championship. I got my quickest top speed down the straight in the final race of 216 the second quickest for the weekend.

Overall, it was not a too bad weekend coming away second overall for the final round of the Australian Moto3 Championship at the ASBK - Australian Superbikes and second in the championship. Massive thanks to my team who have helped me out this year. Couldn't do it without these guys Iver Johnson, Terry Armstrong my coach, Dad (Michael) and Richard Fly Wills, they are a great help and always stay positive even when things are getting tuff. I would like to personally thank all my sponsors who have once again backed me for the 2017 season. It has been great having everyone on board.

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