

British Superbike Series: Rispoli Pushes the Limits

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Photo Courtesy of D. Coupland

DAYTONA, F.L. Although Oulton Park is only the third round of the Motorpoint British Supersport Championship, it was home to one of the most intense races of the series yet. Team Traction Control's American racer James "The Rocket" Rispoli blasted off to a phenomenal start to both the Sprint and Feature races.

After qualifying on to the second row of the starting lineup, Rispoli battled his way into third place on Sunday's Sprint race.

Unfortunately, Oulton Park's treacherous turns proved to be turbulent for Rispoli,

and he was thrown from his Yamaha midway through the race, causing an incident involving two other racers. "When I'm on the track, I'm all about the speed." Rispoli commented. "I do my best to play it safe, but when you've got to make a move to get ahead, you take a risk. Oulton is notorious for its blind crests and tight corners, but if you aren't taking a risk as a racer, you're in the wrong line of work." Despite being unable to finish, Rispoli the speed demon reached a lightning quick lap time of 01:38:67, placing him onto the 1st row of Monday's Feature race lineup.

"Technical Difficulties" seemed to be the phrase of the day at the Feature Race, starting with an error with the track's starting lights. Despite Rispoli holding on tight to his third place start, and even pushing into second, a critical technical error on his bike caused Rispoli to stop before he even began. "It's a bummer, my team thrashed to get my bike into great running shape but a small problem caused me to pull off the racing line going through the chicane." Remarked Rispoli. "The team and I worked our tails off this weekend and made a ton of progress on setup. We definitely have the pace to run up front and consistently are now showing our speed." The malfunction resulted in an incomplete race.

With the fourth round of the championship at Snetterton Circuit a month away, only time will tell if Rispoli's dedication will usher him to victory. But what is clear is that despite whatever obstacles lie in his path, he can always count on his fans to rally him. Rispoli stated: "The overwhelming support I received after the races from my friends, sponsors, and fans was amazing! It makes me want to push myself ten times harder than before. I can't thank them enough for sticking by my side through everything. Every move, every over-take, and every victory is for them. I want them to feel the excitement as if they are riding on my shoulder. This is what I live for!"