

Road Race

WSS, Phillip Island, Australia

Sofuoglu On Fine Form As New Season Approaches At Increasing Pace

With only a few days to go until the beginning of the 2012 Supersport World Championship top Kawasaki runners like DeltaFin Lorenzini rider Kenan Sofuoglu have enjoyed good test showings.

Kenan, riding for Kawasaki in WSS for the first time this season, was second quickest after two days of intense track action at Phillip Island in Australia, while sharing track space with the entire field of 2012 riders.

Sofuoglu feels confident that he can shoot for the race win even at the first weekend of the season and he is not the only seasoned campaigner in this class to show strong form even before the first points come up for grabs.

Kawasaki Intermoto Step rider Fabien Foret was third quickest overall while DeltaFin Kawasaki rider Sheridan Morais took some time to learn the secrets of a circuit he had never seen before these tests, and he finally jumped up to an impressive seventh. Kawasaki Team GOELEVEN rider Joshua Day was 20th in the combined times in his rookie WSS test, while Foret's team-mate Romain Lanusse was 23rd.

Now all the WSS competitors look to the opening race of the season, on Sunday 26th February, as the first chance to score points in what is shaping up to be a closely contested championship, with Kawasaki riders looking set to be fighting up front once again.

Kenan Sofuoglu: "It was very good at this test because until this morning I tried many different set-ups and rear shocks, maybe six or seventh different ones, so on the last run we put all the best stuff together in the last half an hour and I gained about seven tenths. That took me to the top of the time sheets right away. Another rider came along and went a little faster but it does not matter as these tests were only about being ready for the race weekend. The bike has the potential to win the race and I have the potential to win the race and I am very hungry to win again. For one and half years I have not won a Supersport race so now it is time to win again."

Sheridan Morais: "We ended up in a good position. I was a bit lost this morning but we reached a point where I had to find set-up and I wanted to go faster but I was not able to this morning. After the first session we sat down and compared my laps with Kenan's and there were three turns where I was losing all my time. Once we had sorted that out I went just over a second quicker than this morning's times. We have worked hard and did about 133 laps, which is a lot. Tyre-wise, I still had two tyres left and I managed to do race distance runs twice, so I am happy for the forthcoming race, in fact I am really looking forward to it."

Fabien Foret: "When you are not first you are never completely satisfied but I have to admit that after a long break from riding and a new bike, new team and everything, it is not too bad. I would have been happy to know that we could have finished testing third and be riding at a reasonable pace. For me speed-wise it is not amazing at the moment but the base is really not too bad and we have two more days of practice before the race which will be useful as we ran out of time at these tests. We have had a pretty positive test so close to the start of the year."

High resolution images are free to download at press.kawasaki.eu.