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# Ducati double

## Nelson and Bartolini split victories

By John Hopkins

Photos by Matthew Grant

**B**OWMANVILLE, ON – The NCR-Ducati team continued its mastery of the Canadian Thunder

Championship at Mosport International Raceway July 19-20.

After Andrew Nelson edged teammate Valter Bartolini by 0.003 secs. in a spectacular finish in Saturday's first half of the doubleheader, Bartolini claimed victory on Sunday after Nelson retired with mechanical troubles.

Each rider had two wins, a runner-up and a DNF through the opening four races, making bonus points for qualifying and laps led the deciding factors in the points table. Bartolini led Nelson 157-155 with three races to go.

After Bartolini took the lead on the opening lap of the first 10-lap race Nelson got in front on lap 2 and led across the strip each time, setting up a dramatic final lap.

Bartolini drafted past his teammate on the back straight and held the lead coming into turn 10. The Italian ran a bit wide, however, allowing Nelson to come back alongside and ease ahead in the run to the flag.

"I looked back at the start of the lap and I had a bit of a gap," Nelson explained.

"Then he came roaring by me on the backstraight and took me by surprise. But he ran a bit wide in turn 10, didn't square it off too good, and I was able to square it off.

"We didn't know who had won. [On the cooling off lap] we just kept looking back and forth at each other."

Visiting his third new track of the season Bartolini admitted it had taken him a while to get up to speed, and he qualified third for the race behind Nelson and Dave Estok on the Deeley Harley-Davidson Canada/Ruthless Racing Buell 1125R.

"The track here, there's a bit more to learn," he said through an interpreter. "It's more challenging than the other tracks."

Darren James took third on his Deeley Harley-Davidson Canada/Ruthless Racing Buell.

Next up was Michael Ferreira on the BMW Motorrad Canada BMW HP2 Sport, holding off Michael Leon's KTM Canada KTM Super Duke 990R and a fading Estok, who ran third in the early laps.

Estok got the lead in Sunday's race, held on a wet but drying track, but Bartolini got around him in turn 9 on the opening lap. Nelson was mired down in fifth before pulling off in turn 5 on lap 5.

Try as he might Bartolini couldn't get away from the pack, and had Estok, James and Ferreira close behind through the first half of the race. Estok went down on lap 6, rejoining in sixth, leaving Ferreira and James in pursuit. The BMW was right on the 848 at the start of the final lap, but Bartolini put his head down and opened up a 1.726-sec. margin at the flag.

"I was starting to lose a bit of traction at the end but I was making up time on the brakes," Ferreira said. "On the last lap he [Bartolini] looked back and he just wicked it up."

Bartolini credited his long racing experience in handling tricky track conditions.

"I have lots of experience," said the European Super Twins champion. "Plus, I'm also an old man. I've been on the track a long time."

James took his second straight third place

finish, while Estok recovered for fourth and held onto third in the championship with 140 points, three more than James.

Leon was fifth and Paul Glenn sixth in class on the other factory BMW after KTM rider Erick Beausejour had a moment on the final tour.

Local racer A J Simiana ended Jim Proulx's streak in the Canadian Sport Twins class in Saturday's race, although it was back to business as usual for Proulx on Sunday.

Riding his Ducati S2R/Sport Classic Simiana battled with Buell riders Proulx and Olivier Spilborghs in Saturday's race, taking the lead for good two laps from the end and winning by just half a second over Proulx, who was forced onto a basically stock XB12 at the last minute, with Spilborghs right behind in third.

On Sunday it was Simiana's turn to go to a back-up as he lost a head gasket in the morning. There was no stopping Proulx, however, as he charged to sixth place overall and his third class win of the year. He also picked up the Tirox Big Won Award for winning by the largest margin of victory on the day.

Spilborghs crossed the line in second but was docked five seconds for a jump start, leaving him fourth in the results behind Simiana and Buell rider Dan Thomson.

Proulx left Mosport with a massive 40-point lead in the standings, 208-168, with Spilborghs third on 154 points. ■

Andrew Nelson (26) and Valter Bartolini shared Thunder honours at Mosport.

