

First day of the Trial of Japan, the 3rd round of the World Trial Championship

FOURTH PODIUM IN A ROW IN THE OUTDOOR WTC FOR ADAM RAGA (GAS GAS)

Team partner Jeroni Fajardo is sixth

Motegi (Japan), 22 May 2004.– The first rider of the works GAS GAS trial team, Adam Raga, has finished in the third place at the end of the Trial of Japan's first day. Raga improved as the trial went on, but he was not able to beat Doug Lampkin and Takahisa Fujinami, second and first respectively. The opening day of the WTC's third valid round also saw the young GAS GAS rider Jeroni Fajardo in the sixth place.

On the first lap, Adam Raga's 15 points left him in the sixth provisional place in the standings. However, the Uldecona rider showed his fighting spirit on his GAS GAS TXT 300 and displayed his outstanding riding skills by finishing only 3 points to add to the first lap's 15, climbing all the way up to third and scoring the best result in the field in the process. Another highlight of the race was Jeroni Fajardo's sixth place, which settles him in the same place in the Championship standings.

Raga's well-deserved podium has not allowed him, however, to keep the lead of the Championship. After the first day, the top three positions in the provisional standings are closer than before. Raga, with 83 points, is just one point away from Doug Lampkin's 84, while today's winner, Fujinami, with 81 points, has capitalised on his local knowledge to move up to just two points behind Raga.

The second day of the Trial of Japan, to be held tomorrow in Motegi, will be a chance for Raga to regain the lead of the World Trial Championship and beat his closest rival, Doug Lampkin.

<u>Final standings Trial of Japan – Day 1</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Per lap</u>
1 - Takahisa Fujinami (Jap/Honda)	13	2+11
2 - Doug Lampkin (GB/Montesa)	14	9+5
3 - Adam Raga (SP/GAS GAS)	18	15+3
6 - Jeroni Fajardo (SP/GAS GAS)	36	17+19

Provisional World Trial Championship standings

1 - Doug Lampkin (GB/Montesa)	84 points
2 - Adam Raga (Spain/GAS GAS)	83 points
3 - Takahisa Fujinami (Japan/Honda)	81 points
4 - Albert Cabestany (Spain/Beta)	67 points
5 - Marc Freixa (Spain/Montesa)	60 points

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