



King breaks track record, qualifies # 1

27th August 2005, London England; -

British Top Fuel Bike rider Ian King was once again thwarted in his attempts to put a greater margin of points between him and the chasing pack at the penultimate round of the European Drag Racing Championship at Hockenheim, Germany.

Following his back to back wins in the British and Finnish rounds of the European Championship, both the Swedish and Norwegian rounds suffered an early end of competition due to the weather, and it was hoped that Germany would not suffer the torrential rain sweeping central and northern Europe bringing destruction and some loss of life in the aftermath.

The 20th Anniversary of the NitrOlympx had much to offer. The usual 50,000 plus spectators, the spectacular Night Show, comfortable pit garages, and one of the best tracks in Europe. In addition, last year's problems with track preparation seemed to be a thing of the past as the involvement of two NHRA track specialists seemed to turn the track around with low six second Top Fuel Bike numbers and four second Top Fuel Dragster passes testament to their work.

As the qualifying passes were not ordered, King and his friend and racing colleague Roel Koedam of the Netherlands elected to run each other for all four qualifying passes on both the Friday and Saturday, providing the crowd with a great side by side six second passes each and every time. It also gave the two riders in first and second place in the championship respectively a chance to check each other's reaction times and staging techniques.

King saved the best until the last session. A tremendous pass by both riders bought the crowd to their feet and saw King smash the Hockenheim motorcycle track record and clinch number one position for eliminations with a stunning 6.319 @ 215.9 mph to eclipse Koedam's 6.404 @ 224.7 mph, also his best pass of qualifying.

It seemed that King now had the chance on raceday to clinch the crown but, alas it was not to be. The warm and sunny skies enjoyed during the previous two days disappeared come Sunday, and the rain set in. Although the track eventually dried by mid afternoon it was already too late for the track officials who had called the event at 14.30 deeming the wet shutdown area too dangerous for the motorcycles.

A disappointing end to the event, but one that means the championship crown is down to the wire with the decider at the final round of the championship at Santa Pod, England.

King Racing's next event is the Mosten Raceday in Denmark, 2 - 4th September

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Any companies or individuals who wish to be involved in the King Racing 2005 race effort can contact us at admin@kingracing.com, by telephone on +44 (0) 7785 341099 or by fax on +44 (0) 1763 852707. Visit King Racing at www.kingracing.com