

BIKE WEEK AT DIS

Buell struggles in likely farewell run

By GODWIN KELLY
MOTORSPORTS EDITOR

DAYTONA BEACH — It was supposed to be a season-ending, speed celebration filled with happiness and joy among competitors.

At times Saturday, pit road at Daytona International Speedway felt more like the site of a wake; an unexpected, teary goodbye for the domestic motorcycle racing nameplate Buell, which will soon shutter operations in Wisconsin.

"They were going to use our platform to showcase their technology," AMA Pro Racing vice president Ollie Dean said. "It's very unfortunate. This week has been very tough."

"This isn't about a news bulletin that some company is closing its doors. It's about relationships you have formed with people, and thinking about how this affects them and their families and their futures."

On Thursday, Harley-Davidson announced it would discontinue its Buell Sportbike division, which turned Saturday's Daytona 8 Hour motorcycle race into what many believed a farewell performance for Buell's road-racing efforts.

The No. 13 Westby Racing Yamaha, shared by Dustin Meador, Josh Hayes, Jeff Wood and Dane Westby, captured overall honors by turning 247 laps over the 3.51-mile road course.

"This is awesome," Meador said from Victory Lane.

Second place went to the No. 18 Suzuki of Jason DiSalvo, Chris Ulrich and Martin Cardenas. They were two laps behind.

The No. 49 Touring Sport Ducshop Ducati was third. The top GT2 bike was the No. 77 Ducati, which finished sixth overall.

For most of this day, the attention was on the efforts and struggles of the two Buell teams.

The No. 70 James Gang Buell spent almost two hours on pit road changing engines, while the No. 41 Liberty Waves Buell retired three hours from the finish with an engine failure.

Mike Kirkpatrick led the life-saving mechanical efforts on the No. 70 Buell, so a Buell would take the checkered flag. He was in tears after the engine swap was complete.

"I came down here to win this race," said Kirkpatrick. "That would have been special."

"It's a really great bike," he said. "They've done a really good job with it. We have followed Buell since they started. For privateers like us, they've been very good to us. This is a true shame."

Buell had a breakout year in AMA competition. Rider Danny Eslick captured the AMA Daytona Sportbike championship aboard the Richie Morris Racing/Bruce Rossmeier Buell.

"This is American engineering and ingenuity at its



News-Journal/DAVID MASSEY

The No. 41 Liberty Waves Racing Buell 1125R racer raises his arm to signal to other riders that he is having mechanical trouble Saturday at Daytona International Speedway.

TODAY'S AT DIS

Fall Cycle Scene

WHERE: Daytona International Speedway
COURSE: 3.51-mile motorcycle road course
HIGHLIGHT EVENT: AMA Pro Racing SuperSport season final
TICKETS: General admission, \$25.
WEB SITES: daytonainternationalspeedway.com, amapro racing.com, ccsrcacing.us
MORE INFO: Call the Speedway at 800-748-7467

Today's schedule

8 a.m.: Start of practice sessions
9:30 a.m.: Start of six-lap CCGS Sprints in this order: 1. Middleweight GP (EX & AM), 2. 125GP (EX & AM) / Ultra Light SuperBike, 3. HW

SuperSport (EX & AM), 4. LW SuperSport (EX & AM), 5. Middleweight SuperBike (EX), 6. Middleweight SuperBike (AM)
11 a.m.: Course closed for lunch break
Noon: Start of AMA Pro Supersport (12 laps)
1 p.m.: ASRA eight-lap races in this order: Michelin Pro SuperStock, Michelin Pro SuperBike, Michelin Pro ThunderBike, Factory Pro SportBike
3 p.m.: Resume six-lap CCGS Sprints in this order: 7. UL Grand Prix (EX & AM), 8. Lightweight GP (EX & AM), 9. Heavyweight SuperBike (EX & AM), 10. LW SuperBike (EX & AM), 11. Unlimited SuperBike (EX & AM), 12. SuperTwins (EX & AM)

best," Kirkpatrick said of the Buell. "And, we're going to finish this race."

The No. 70 Buell finished 14th, the last bike to take the flag at the finish line.

The No. 41 Buell never made it back to Daytona's road course. It was in parts and pieces after the crew tried to swap a used engine for the one that blew up at the start of Saturday's race.

"It broke a rod," said one of the crew. "We really wanted to finish this race, on account of the situation at Buell. Yeah, definitely."

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SATURDAY 8 Hours At Daytona AMA Pro SunTrust Moto-GT Series

Top-10 provisional results for the 8 Hours At Daytona SunTrust Moto-GT Series race Saturday at Daytona International Speedway with team name, riders, bike and laps:
1. Westby Racing, Josh Hayes, Dane Westby, Dustin Meador, Jeff Wood, Yamaha, 247 laps
2. Roadracingworld/Suzuki, Martin Cardenas, Jason DiSalvo, Chris Ulrich, Suzuki, 245
3. Touring Sport Ducshop Ducati, Ryan Ellsby, Matt Lind, Hawk Mazzotta, Ducati, 236
4. R & B Motorsports, Michael Barnes, Phil Cau-

dill, Mark Crozer, Skip Salenius, Ducati, 233
5. Crozier Motorsports, Mark Crozer, Scott Jensen, David Eaback, Michael Barnes, Ducati, 229
6. Touring Sport Ducshop Ducati, Pete Friedland, Corey Rech, Brad Phillips, Brian Stokes, Ducati, 223
7. RPM Racing by Motocorse, Chris Boy, Barrett Long, Fernando Ferrer, Ducati, 223
8. RidersChoice.CA, Matt McBride, Andrew Neilson, Larry Orde, Pat Barnes, Suzuki, 220
9. McNeology Racing, David McPherson, Mark McCornick, Yamaha, 220
10. Touring Sport Ducshop, Brian Stokes, Dario Manzetti, Frank Shockley, Ducati, 210
Expert Formula 40: 1. Anthony Farris, Suzuki 750; 2. Charlie Mavros, Suzuki 750; 3. Frank Aragaki, Suzuki 600
Amateur Formula 40: 1. Javier Vazquez, Suzuki 750; 2. James Cohrs, Yamaha 600; 3. Richard Eanes, Ducati 1098
Amateur Lightweight F40: 1. Jim Berard, Ducati 1000; 2. Darrell Ryas, Suzuki 650; 3. Steve Johnston, Ducati 1000
Expert Lightweight F40: 1. Ed. Key, Suzuki 650; 2. Eric Heimbach, Suzuki 650; 3. Eric Meistrer, BMW 1000
Expert Middleweight SuperSport: 1. Roberto Pietri, Yamaha 600; 2. Paul Allison, Yamaha 600; 3. Scott Greenwood, Kawasaki 600
Amateur Middleweight SuperSport: 1. James Cohrs, Yamaha 600; 2. Hunter Propp, Suzuki 600; 3. Fernando Ferro, Yamaha 600
Expert ThunderBike: 1. Nate Kern, BMW 1200; 2. Christopher Boy, Ducati 748; 3. Danny Blair, Suzuki, Buell 1200
Amateur ThunderBike: 1. Jordan Richardson, Buell 1200; 2. Jim Berard, Ducati 1000; 3. Jay Smith, Buell 1200
Amateur Unlimited SuperSport: 1. Javier Vazquez, Suzuki 1000; 2. Richard Eanes, Ducati 1098; 3. Chris Meier, Ducati 848
Expert Unlimited SuperSport: 1. Shane Narbonne, Suzuki 1000; 2. Brian Stokes, Kawasaki 1000; 3. Charlie Mavros, Suzuki 1000.



Ken Willis

NASCAR prez Mike Helton can't see the future on Ken's head, but he can see his reflection.

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the first Hall class?

You can't argue with the vote tally. Well, you can, but it does you no good. And, hey, 50 years from now, it won't matter a bit.

's next class?

David Pearson, Bobby Allison and Cale Yarborough, Pete Lee, locks, and Darrell Waltrip might also be a lock. As for the fifth, I'd say Lee Petty, though my heart says Fireball Roberts.

ssy are both racing out if he needs to win?

I don't think he'd have any probably taking out Rusty, Kenny or even Steve Wallace, but he'll surely draw the line at his daughter. Unless she has it comin', of course.

becoming a tennis dad?

Nah. You pull a guy's credentials, and he tends to get his mind right pretty quick.

s before she even starts . . . racing?

If and when the day ever comes, it will be quite entertaining to watch her put on the happy face for all the PR stuff attached to a NASCAR ride. Compared to her resistance, Tony Stewart will look like Helio Castroneves.

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