



FIM World Enduro Championship 2009

Metzeler Leading Top Spots in all Three Classes after 2nd Weekend of World Enduro Competition

With variable weather conditions at the Spanish track, Metzeler riders on both Honda and KTM machines win on extreme terrain

Igualada, Spain, March 28-29 **Metzeler** was out in force at the second race of the Iberian Peninsula tour – HM-Honda's Mika Ahola left the Spanish GP with a strong lead in the **E1** World Enduro Championship, while the **E2** and **E3** classes were colored by KTM riders **Johnny Aubert** and **Ivan Cervantes**, whose closest competition is none other than their teammates.



Finnish rider Mika Ahola leads the E1 class after two weekends of competition.

Contrary to the **Ahola's** unmatched performance in Portugal, the mixed and often difficult Spanish conditions just 60 km west of Barcelona gave the competition an opportunity to raise the game as **Albergoni** ran past **Ahola** for the Sunday win, by a margin of over 17 seconds. Add this to the excellent tests run by **Aubert** and **Cervantes**, **Metzeler** and KTM shared a very nice sweep of the three classes for the two races of the 2nd weekend of the World Enduro Championship.

Day 1

The first day of **ENDURO 1** was marred by midday rain, and with a 70km route through the mountains near the Catalan town of Igualada, it was a long day for all teams. The lead riders **Mika Ahola (HM-Honda Zanardo)** and

Albergoni (KTM Factory) seemed to have the best setups all day, swapping times and positions several times before Ahola programmed his last enduro test like an engineer for a win on the day.

It seemed **Simone** could pull the time back, closing to 1-second off the lead with two tests to go. **Ahola** ripped through the final enduro test, stretching his lead by 8.3 seconds, too much time for the Italian to recover with one short test remaining.

Franco Mayr, the HM-Honda team manager felt the weekend was once more filled with many satisfactions. "Each time it is always a fantastic, unique, and special emotion. **Mika Ahola's** competitiveness has been extraordinary, and so also has been that of the others riders in our team. I'm certain that the results will keep on getting better."

Johnny Aubert has started the **ENDURO 2** season off well, since good results cannot get much better than four straight wins. New to the KTM Enduro Factory Team, the Frenchman took more victories in Spain this weekend having adapted well to the KTM machine and **Metzeler** tires.

Already on Saturday **Aubert** meant business even though he was the first rider into the extreme test as it started to rain, making the terrain even more slippery. He still pushed past Cristobal Guerrero of Spain to complete the race with an impressive gap.

Aubert now goes to the next race in Sardinia with a 27-point lead in the standings ahead of second placed Frenchman Rodrig Thain and Cristobal Guerrero of Spain.

KTM Enduro factory rider **Ivan Cervantes** rose to the occasion in Igualada, Spain this weekend finishing first in Rounds Three and Four of the **ENDURO 3** World Championships. Obviously at ease in front of his home crowd in Spain, **Cervantes** doubled his points score after a great opening last weekend in Portugal where he also won both of the opening rounds. Sebastien Guillaume followed Ivan's lead on his Husqvarna machine and an impressive third place finish by fellow Frenchman **Christophe Nambotin** on a GAS-GAS machine and **Metzeler 6-Days Extreme** tyres.

Day 2

Italy's **Simone Albergoni**, riding in his first season for the KTM Enduro Factory Team tipped the scales in his own favour at Sunday's round four of the **ENDURO 1** World Championship when he snatched victory from arch rival **Mika Ahola** of Finland. **Mika** had won the first two races in Portugal and also first on Saturday when riders took to the terrain in Igualada, Spain, about. Sunday weather conditions were very tough after heavy rain on Saturday night and the following morning, but the day belonged to KTM's Italian rider. "It was a very big fight between them," reported KTM Factory Team boss Fabio Farioli. They both made some mistakes and both crashed on what turned out to be hard conditions for hard riders." **Ahola** attacked on the remaining three tests and beat **Albergoni** in two of them, but the gap was too great and **Ahola** finished 17.43 seconds adrift. The Husqvarna rider Antoine Meo finished third in both races, maintaining third position in the championship standings with 19 points behind the leader.



The Italian KTM rider Albergoni led on Day 2.
– Image courtesy of KTM Images (J. Edmunds)

Overnight rain made conditions very tricky on Sunday for Round Four of the **ENDURO 2** class for the second race at Igualada, west of Barcelona. **Aubert** completed his second win here in Spain following a double-win last weekend in Portugal, with a total contribution of nine podiums out of a possible 12 so far in the season. The results make team boss Fabio Farioli a happy man. "Johnny has just won everything," he said. "He rides in such a relaxed way.



Cervantes was in good form during Rounds Three and Four of the E3 Championship.
– Image courtesy of KTM Images (J. Edmunds)

It was **Cervantes** again in Day Two for a double victory this weekend in Rounds Three and Four of the **ENDURO 3** Word championships. Last weekend, **Cervantes** won races with a small margin and some small crashes, but this weekend he was in fine shape, fighting hard to capture strong victories even though the conditions were

tough and slippery with all the rain and mud.

Reigning E1 world champion **Samuli Aro** lifted his game with another second place following the same result in Portugal the previous race weekend. **Aro** was fifth on Saturday but rose to the occasion and tackled the tough conditions to be second behind **Cervantes** on Sunday.

The Italian edition of the World Enduro Championship voyages the untamed island of **Sardinia** on the 18th and 19th of April where these enduro experts will try to maintain their lead in the series.

3rd Round Results – DAY 1 – Igualada, Spain

Class	Pos	Rider	Nation	Team	Pts	Tyre
E1	1	Mika Ahola	FIN	HM-HONDA	25	METZELER
	2	Simone Albergoni	ITA	KTM FACTORY	22	METZELER
	3	Antoine Meo	FRA	CH HUSQVARNA	20	Michelin
E2	1	Johnny Aubert	FRA	KTM FACTORY	25	METZELER
	2	Cristobal Guerrero	ESP	YAMAHA CEPESA	22	Michelin
	3	Bartosz Oblucki	POL	CH HUSQVARNA	20	Michelin
E3	1	Ivan Cervantes	ESP	KTM FACTORY	25	METZELER
	2	Sebastien Guillaume	FRA	CH HUSQVARNA	22	Michelin
	3	Christophe Nambotin	FRA	GAS-GAS	20	METZELER

4th Round Results – DAY 2 – Igualada, Spain

Class	Pos	Rider	Nation	Team	Pts	Tyre
E1	1	Simone Albergoni	ITA	KTM FACTORY	25	METZELER
	2	Mika Ahola	FIN	HM-HONDA	22	METZELER
	3	Antoine Meo	FRA	CH HUSQVARNA	20	Michelin
E2	1	Johnny Aubert	FRA	KTM FACTORY	25	METZELER
	2	Joakim Ljunggren	SWE	HUSABERG	22	Michelin
	3	Rodrig Thain	FRA	TM RACING	20	Michelin
E3	1	Ivan Cervantes	ESP	KTM FACTORY	25	METZELER
	2	Samuli Aro	FIN	KTM FACTORY	22	METZELER
	3	Christophe Nambotin	FRA	GAS-GAS	20	METZELER

2009 World Enduro Championship Standings (After 4 Rounds)

Class	Pos	Rider	Nation	Team	Pts	Tyre
E1	1	Mika Ahola	FIN	HM-HONDA	97	METZELER
	2	Simone Albergoni	ITA	KTM FACTORY	89	METZELER
	3	Antoine Meo	FRA	HUSQVARNA	78	Michelin
E2	1	Johnny Aubert	FRA	KTM FACTORY	100	METZELER
	2	Alessandro Belometti	ITA	KTM FACTORY	73	METZELER
	3	Rodrig Thain	FRA	TM RACING	73	Michelin
E3	1	Ivan Cervantes	ESP	KTM FACTORY	100	METZELER
	2	Samuli Aro	FIN	KTM FACTORY	80	METZELER
	3	Christophe Nambotin	FRA	GAS-GAS	80	METZELER