

Barcelona Indoor Enduro

Round 2 of Indoor Enduro World Championship held at Palau Sant Jordi Stadium, Barcelona, Spain.

Having failed to qualify at round 1 despite posting times amongst the top 6 riders and being fastest in first practice Jonny Walker was determined to make the finals in Barcelona.

However the original Indoor Enduro attracts the largest entry and the very best riders, an amazing line up with several World Champions would make Jonny's ambitions a real challenge. After practice it was apparent again that he was again up with the leading riders and had the speed to run near the front. The track layout was especially demanding, relentless rows of logs and boulder obstacles had all the riders struggling and riding more in survival mode than out and out racing, in fact the organisers shortened the final races from 8 to 7 laps after they realised how tough their circuit was.

Jonny was selected for qualifying group 3 along with Taddy Blazusiak, he made no mistakes off the start with a holeshot before Taddy passed him on the first lap and he just settled into a steady pace to take 2nd and easily go through to the finals. Out of over 40 entree's only 14 make it to the finals, many favourites did not however, most notably home favourite Ivan Cervantes and WEC regulars Juha Salminen and Thomas Oldratti who had to go to the last chance race.

First heat of the finals and Jonny made a perfect holeshot again and lead with the factory KTM duo of Blazusiak and Knighter close behind, they passed and Jonny followed for several laps in 3rd, but he tired near the end and dropped down to finish a creditable 5th.

Race 2 and the starting order was reversed meaning that Jonny, Knighter and Taddy would start from the 2nd row !! however the fast starter somehow got through to 3rd on the first lap, but Knighter caught and collided with him and Jonny crashed to the ground in a difficult log section, once he had remounted he was last and no possibility for a good result !!!

Race 3 and he did not make such a good start and after a few mistakes and feeling very drained could do no better than 9th position which would give him 9th overall for the evening.



Jonny Walker “ I am so pleased at my second attempt to qualify for the indoor race, after having bad luck in Italy I was just so careful to not make mistakes. The track here is just so tiring and I just don't have enough experience of this type of racing yet, but each time I learn a lot, I have now switched from a 250 to 300 EXC and this is working great for me and makes the starts much easier. Now i'm looking forward to Hells Gate in Italy”

Team manager Julian Stevens “ Its been a good night for us, Jonny has improved again and we know what we must do to improve our results, its a shame that in race 2 when he was running in 3rd that he and Knighter collided as I am sure he could have made another top 5 position. I believe he has the speed to run in the top 3 soon, he just needs more races and strength, its all about learning now for a serious attempt in 2012”

Results

- 1 Taddy Blazusiak KTM 250 EXC
- 2 David Knight KTM 350 EXC-F
- 3 Joakim Ljungren Husaberg 300 TE
- 9 Jonny Walker KORR Azego KTM UK 300 EXC