

Abstracts of the article “**Valentino Rossi surpasses himself with final-corner win**”

Written by Rick Broadbent

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“Valentino Rossi likes to call himself “The Doctor” and an extraordinary day's racing in Barcelona, and arguably the best win of the Italian's career, provided the antidote for anyone who thinks motorsport is predictable.”

(...) “ ‘In Italy, for a race like this we say, *mamma mia!*’, Rossi said. ‘I have dreamed that overtake for one week. I knew I had to fight and it was a great battle to the end.’ Lorenzo, eight years Rossi’s junior at 22, said: ‘I wasn't expecting him to take me at that point. He was more courageous and deserved the win.’ ” (...)

(...) “Despite that subplot, Lorenzo qualified on pole position and set the early pace with Rossi and Stoner on the Ducati. By the start of the final lap, Stoner had been dropped and Rossi led from Lorenzo, riding a bike with a Barcelona football motif and with the massive crowd urging him to triumph. The Spaniard actually ran into the pitlane to get through on the inside, leaving Rossi to find a way back with chances ebbing away. He managed it by braking late, but ran deep and Lorenzo regained the advantage.

It stayed that way until the final corner when Rossi, literally inches from Lorenzo’s rear tyre, produced an overtaking move at a corner where it is normally deemed impossible.

With six elite world titles, and eight in total, Rossi has been involved in thrilling finishes before, but even by his standards it was a stunning finale. In 2005 he barged Sete Gibernau, the local hero, off the track at the final corner of the Spanish Grand Prix, prompting the fans to start chanting, ‘son of a whore!’ and Jerry Burgess, his crew chief, to respond: ‘This isn't ballroom dancing’ ”. (...)