



Above Colin Edwards tumbles through the gravel trap after being scooped up by Alex de Angelis's Honda. Nicky Hayden was the other victim

Below Things you thought you'd never see: a factory Honda rider using Ohlins, not Showa, suspension. Andrea Dovizioso consults his technician

Opposite Being from San Marino, Alex de Angelis featured in all the event publicity. Unfortunately he didn't make it past the second corner

the HRC president's statement at Brno that both Dani and Andrea Dovizioso would be re-signing for the factory team on two-year contracts, it was announced on race-day morning that the Spanish rider had indeed signed up – but only for one year. Dovi had also agreed to stay for another year but with an option for another season. And after the race Pedrosa made it very clear to Italian TV that he would have preferred to be on a Yamaha in 2010. The message was clear: give me a better bike or I'm off.

In the continuing absence of Casey Stoner, expected back at the next race, Ducati announced the re-signing of Nicky Hayden, who looked and sounded like his old relaxed self. 'I've said it's been the worst year of my life but it ain't so bad. You've only got to watch the news to see there are a lot of people out there having a lot worse time than me.' He gave every impression of enjoying the responsibility of carrying the Ducati banner in front of the company's top brass, employees and customers, and he put in his best dry-weather qualifying of the season so far. Nicky even set a fastest sector time, something he hadn't previously achieved in the dry. Crucially, he didn't appear to spend Friday trying to get the Desmosedici to act like a normal motorcycle. It looked as if he'd be able to run in the top six at least.

However, Nicky also said on Saturday that 'the first two or three turns are going to be harsh'. He wasn't wrong. It's in the nature of the Misano track to string the pack out over the first half-lap, so anyone not on the front two rows has to get a good start. Hayden didn't mention any names, but a disappointed Alex de Angelis headed the third row. He had the pace to be higher up but couldn't make use of the softer tyre. The previous week he'd been

