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MXGP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2023 LATVIA



The "Zelta Zirgs" circuit of Kegums hosted the Grand Prix of Latvia, the **eighth round** of the FIM Motocross World Championship 2023. Heavy rain, with moments of sunshine in between, made the spectacular track with its sandy and compact surface particularly challenging.

Fifteenth in time practice, **Alessandro Lupino (Beta RX450)** made a good comeback in qualifying, finishing in **twelfth position**. The Italian rider started among the leaders in race one and finished in **tenth** position. In the final round **Alessandro** was even more incisive and after another excellent start he finished **ninth**. These placings allowed Lupino to finish the GP in **eighth place** and move up to fifteenth in the Championship standings.

Bad luck also plagued **Ben Watson (Beta RX450)** at Kegums. The Englishman started the weekend by setting the fourteenth fastest time in the time practice. In qualifying Ben was then involved in a group crash at the start and was forced to retire with his bike irreparably damaged. In the first race Watson put in a good comeback that allowed him to come close to the top ten, **eleventh**, while in race two he prematurely retired after a contact at the start.

Next weekend the **MRT Racing Team Beta** will be on circuit at **Teutschenthal**, the German track that will host the German Grand Prix, the **ninth round** of the season.

Alessandro Lupino: "In Latvia I had another positive weekend, even though this type of terrain is not one of my favourites. I completed two good races during which I always kept a constant pace. Before the race I didn't think I would be able to achieve this result and today's performance makes me look forward to the next rounds of the season with confidence and a lot of optimism."

Ben Watson: "After missing several races in the last period, and still recovering from my thumb injury, I arrived in Latvia not very confident. In practice my feeling was good even though I was hoping to set a better time in the time trials. In qualifying I crashed at the start, when I got up my bike was damaged and I could not continue. The first race was not easy because my forearms hardened. The time away from competition made it harder, but I gritted my teeth and finished in eleventh position. My expectations were high for the final heat but a problem right after the start forced me to retire again. I hope to have better luck next week in Germany."



