2026 FIM SPEEDWAY GP OF CZECH REPUBLIC – PRAGUE – BURB'S BRIEFING

Hello and welcome to Burb's Briefing! Here is some information and a few talking points which may assist your coverage of the FIM Speedway GP of Czech Republic – Prague this Saturday ...

WHERE?

- The first Speedway GP event at Marketa Stadium took place in 1997 and Prague therefore celebrates a record-extending 30th straight season of SGP racing at Marketa.
- Saturday sees Marketa Stadium host what will be its 32nd Speedway GP event – a series record. Prague staged double-headers in 2020 and 2021 when the Covid-19 pandemic condensed the calendar. As a result, it has reached No.32 a couple of years earlier than anticipated.
- Prague was the only city outside of Poland to stage Speedway GP action during the pandemic-hit 2020 season - underlining the city's incredible dedication to the event.
- In addition to Saturday's Speedway GP action, Friday sees Marketa Stadium host 2026 FIM Speedway of Nations – SON2 – Prague. Eight countries compete in the 28-heat marathon to lift the first FIM Speedway world title of 2026 – the FIM Team Speedway Under-21 World Championship.
- The event features host nation Czech Republic, champions Germany, Denmark, Australia, Poland, Sweden, Great Britain and Ukraine.
- Ukrainian racer Nazar Parnitskyi features in both Friday and Saturday's events, along with home hero, FIM Czech Speedway GP wild card Adam Bubba Bednar and track reserve Adam Nejezchleba.
- Marketa Stadium is located in the Prague 6 district - to the west of one of Europe's most picturesque cities.
- Pavel Ondrasik leads the AK Marketa promotion and also plays a key role on the FIM Track Racing Commission.
- The stadium has staged speedway since the 1930s, when it was built.

WHEN?

- Speedway GP Qualifying - 14:00 CEST

- FIM Speedway GP of Czech Republic – Prague - 19:00 CEST

FIM JURY

REFEREE: Jesper Steentoft (Denmark)

JURY PRESIDENT: Tony Olsson (Sweden)

FMNR REPRESENTATIVE: Petr Moravec (Czech Republic)

RACE DIRECTOR: Phil Morris (Great Britain)

CZECH LUCKY CHARM – REGAINING ITS MAGIC WITH ZMARZLIK?

- Victory in the FIM Speedway GP of Czech Republic – Prague is always special, but winning this event has been something of a lucky charm for riders over the past 30 years.
- Of the 32 Speedway GP winners at Marketa Stadium, 15 have gone on to win the Speedway GP World Championship in the same season.
- The percentage of Prague winners who went on to achieve this feat was greater than 50 percent for quite some time, but Slovak hero Martin Vaculik raced to three straight Prague wins in 2022, 2023 and 2024, failing to convert any of them into the sport's biggest prize. His highest finish in the Speedway GP World Championship so far is third place – achieved in 2023.
- Polish icon Bartosz Zmarzlik got Prague's magical record back on track in 2025, topping the Marketa Stadium podium for the third time, before pipping Aussie star Brady Kurtz to the world title by one point.
- Zmarzlik also won both legs of the 2020 FIM Czech Speedway GP double-header and is now one of five riders to have won the event three times – along with Vaculik (2022-2024), Tai Woffinden (2013-2015), Nicki Pedersen (2007, 2008 and 2012) and Jason Crump (2002-2004).
- If Zmarzlik reaches the final in Prague, it will be his 10th straight Speedway GP final appearance.
- His opening race will also be his 700th heat as a Speedway GP rider.

TITLE DECIDER – BRADY KURTZ

- The 2025 FIM Czech Speedway GP ultimately proved very decisive in the SGP World Championship race as Aussie icon Brady Kurtz crashed while leading LCQ1 on the final turn. Kurtz lost a chain as he battled Danish racer Leon Madsen for a place in the final.
- The crash saw a guaranteed 14 Speedway GP World Championship points for reaching the final become just seven for Kurtz.

- After falling only a point short of Zmarzlik in the Speedway GP title race, it could be argued that it was one of the most costly crashes in SGP history.
- It was the only 2025 Speedway GP final that Kurtz missed out on. Zmarzlik fell short of the final in Warsaw, but he still left PGE Narodowy with nine championship points.
- Kurtz collected eight championship points at 2026 R1 in Landshut – his second worst SGP result since he joined the championship full time for 2025.
- But given that he's averaging 15 points per SGP across his career, Kurtz is certainly making his mark at this level.
- Only Zmarzlik comes close to this figure. But he has averaged 14.69 points per round from 108 SGPs. Kurtz has raced only 13.

DREAM DEBUT – KACPER WORYNA

- Another rider enjoying a fairytale start to Speedway GP life is Poland's Kacper Woryna, who won the WWK Schwaiger & Partner FIM Speedway GP of Germany – Landshut on May 2.
- It was Woryna's full-time SGP debut and only his third appearance in Speedway GP. His most recent SGP outing prior to Landshut was when he competed as wild card in Torun in 2022.
- Woryna defied a tapes exclusion in heat 14 to reach the last-chance qualifiers, winning LCQ1 to book his place in the final.
- He then denied Dan Bewley a sensational six-ride maximum as he pipped the Brit to victory. The Cumbrian fell just short of becoming the first rider to achieve a Speedway GP maximum since Denmark's Leon Madsen raced to a seven-ride, 21-point full house at the 2019 FIM Torun Speedway GP.
- It has been an incredible start to 2026 for Woryna. He recently won Poland's Golden Helmet to earn a spot in this season's Speedway GP qualifiers for 2027. The Golden Helmet was twice won by his grandfather Antoni Woryna in 1967 and 1971.
- Antoni Woryna is also a former two-time FIM Speedway World Championship bronze medallist, reaching the podium in 1966 and 1970.
- It was very fitting that Woryna senior took the training wheels off a young Kacper's bike before he passed away. It was the moment that launched his career on two wheels.
- As a result of his Landshut win, Woryna lines up in Prague wearing the returning Golden Race Jacket – donned by the rider leading the Speedway GP World Championship ahead of the evening's racing.
- A tradition originally borrowed from the Tour de France, in which the leader wears a yellow jersey, the Golden Race Jacket featured in Speedway GP from 2005-2009, with the likes of Tony Rickardsson, Jason Crump and Nicki Pedersen among those to wear it. The tradition has continued in the

Speedway European Championship in recent years – now it's back in Speedway GP.

DANE DRAFTED IN – ANDERS THOMSEN

- Danish racer Anders Thomsen makes his first Speedway GP appearance of 2026 after the SGP first substitute rider was called up as a replacement for Swedish star Fredrik Lindgren.
- Lindgren was taken to hospital when he crashed out in heat three of Lublin's 46-44 loss away to Leszno in the PGE Ekstraliga on Sunday. According to Lublin's social media accounts, he underwent surgery on an ankle injury.
- Thomsen took 11th spot in the 2025 Speedway GP standings, losing his full-time place in the series. He also fell short of qualification at the 2025 FIM SGP Challenge in Holsted, Denmark, finishing sixth.
- Compatriot Michael Jepsen Jensen in fifth place made the Speedway GP line-up as Latvia's Andzejs Lebedevs finished fourth in the Challenge and also took sixth spot in the Speedway GP World Championship – handing him automatic qualification for 2026.
- Thomsen raced to 10 championship points at Marketa Stadium in 2025 – his best-ever result in Prague.

CZECH CHANGES – DAN BEWLEY / JAN KVECH / ADAM BUBBA BEDNAR

- Another rider to miss Saturday's Prague event is Great Britain's Dan Bewley, who suffered a broken femur and a compressed vertebra when he crashed in heat one of Danish club Region Varde's home match with champions Slangerup in Outrup on Wednesday.
- Bewley suffered what appeared to be a bike defect shortly after the start, straightened up and ploughed straight into the first-bend fence.
- He is replaced in Prague by Czech hero Jan Kvech, who was initially named as wild card for the event, but now covers for Bewley in his role as second Speedway GP substitute for 2026.
- With Kvech vacating the wild-card position, that transfers to local hero Adam Bubba Bednar, who steps up from the first track reserve role.
- Bednar, 18, makes his Speedway GP debut and he also becomes the first rider to compete in Speedway GP, SGP2 (U21) and SGP3 (U16) since the FIM Speedway pyramid was rebranded in 2022.
- With Daniel Klima now the first track reserve, 17-year-old Adam Nejezchleba joins the line-up as the new second track reserve.

SPEEDWAY GP QUALIFIERS

- The battle for 2027 Speedway GP qualification gets underway with the first qualifying round at German club Abensberg on Monday, before the remaining two qualifiers take place at Slovak circuit Zarnovica and Scottish club Glasgow on Saturday, May 30.
- The top five riders in each event qualify for the FIM SGP Challenge, which takes place at former FIM Italian Speedway GP venue Terenzano on July 25, with the top four riders making it into next season's SGP line-up.
- Of Saturday's riders, Dominik Kubera, Anders Thomsen and Jan Kvech all line up in Abensberg, joining the likes of German champion Norick Blodorn, USA star Luke Becker, FIM Oceania champion Keynan Rew of Australia, Latvian racer Francis Gusts, 2022 FIM SGP Challenge winner Kim Nilsson of Sweden and Aussie international Rohan Tungate.
- The Zarnovica qualifier features Speedway GP World Championship leader Kacper Woryna, Latvian ace Andzejs Lebedevs, Danish champion Michael Jepsen Jensen and British racer Robert Lambert, plus the likes of local hero Martin Vaculik, former World Under-21 champion Jaimon Lidsey and Sweden's former SGP star Oliver Berntzon, as well as Czech chargers Vaclav Milik and Adam Bubba Bednar.
- The Glasgow round features Aussie champion Jack Holder, as well as the likes of former world No.3 Maciej Janowski of Poland, former Speedway GP stars Kai Huckenbeck, Piotr Pawlicki and Chris Harris, SON2 world champion Mario Hausl and former British champion Adam Ellis.

WHERE TO WATCH

Fans can catch every moment of Speedway GP and SWC action live on global broadcaster Warner Bros. Discovery's streaming platforms HBO Max or discovery+. Coverage of every Speedway GP Qualifying session is also available on these platforms.

HBO Max is available across Europe, with FIM-MOTO TV providing coverage around the world.

ACROSS EUROPE: Live on HBO Max and discovery+

BRITAIN: Live on HBO Max and TNT Sports

POLAND: Live on Eurosport 3, HBO Max and Player

SWEDEN: Live on Kanal 9 and HBO Max

DENMARK: Live on 6'eren and HBO Max

AUSTRALIA: Live on Fox Sports

GERMANY: Live on HBO Max and discovery+

ACROSS THE BALTICS: Live on Go3, TV3 Sport and HBO Max

CZECHIA: Live on CT Sport and HBO Max

SLOVAKIA: Live on STVR Sport and HBO Max

USA/Canada: Live on Racer

REST OF THE WORLD: Live on FIM-MOTO TV