2026 DEWALT FIM SPEEDWAY GP OF POLAND – TORUN – 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 DEWALT FIM Speedway GP of Poland – Torun this Saturday ...

WHERE?

- Torun's Marian Rose Motoarena stages its 18th Speedway GP on Saturday. The series has visited the city every year since 2010, staging SGP double-headers in both 2020 and 2021.
- This is the 11th time Torun has staged the final round of the Speedway GP series. The championship concluded here from 2012 until 2014, before Australian city Melbourne hosted the final round from 2015-2017.
- From 2018-2024, the series climaxed in Torun again, before the Marian Rose Motoarena took a year off from Speedway GP action to host the 2025 FIM Speedway of Nations. Last year's SGP series finished in Vojens.
- The stadium was opened for the 2009 PGE Ekstraliga season and is regarded as one of the world's finest purpose-built track racing venues. The first FIM Torun Speedway GP took place in 2010, won by Polish legend Tomasz Gollob with a seven-ride maximum.
- The Marian Rose Motoarena is named after a former Torun rider, coach and Polish international. Rose died in a track crash in 1970.
- The stadium sits on the western edge of a stunning city, which was first inhabited in around 1100 BC. It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997.
- Aside from having one of the world's finest speedway venues, Torun's other claims to fame are being the birthplace of astrologer Nicolaus Copernicus and the city's delicious gingerbread – a very popular local delicacy.
- The host club is enjoying some glorious years in the PGE Ekstraliga. In 2025, Torun lifted their first league title since 2008, their first since moving to their current stadium.
- They also took a giant stride towards retaining that title, winning the first leg of this year's play-off final 55-35 at home to Wroclaw last Sunday in front of a lively and passionate crowd at the Motoarena.

WHEN?

Saturday, September 26

- Speedway GP Qualifying – 14:00 CEST
- DEWALT FIM Speedway GP of Poland – Torun – 19:00 CEST

FIM JURY

REFEREE: Aleksandr Latosinski (Ukraine)

JURY PRESIDENT: Tony Olsson (Sweden)

FMNR REPRESENTATIVE: Piotr Szymanski (Poland)

RACE DIRECTOR: Phil Morris (Great Britain)

TITLE FIGHT – LAMBERT'S DANISH DELIGHT

- The Speedway GP World Championship race took a major twist, when Great Britain star Robert Lambert closed a 10-point deficit to pre-event leader Bartosz Zmarzlik to lead by one after winning the Deluxe Homeart FIM Speedway GP of Denmark – Vojens.
- Lambert leads the way on 142 points, with reigning world champion Zmarzlik on 141 and third-placed Brady Kurtz on 139.
- All three are guaranteed Speedway GP World Championship medals – the question is which colour they will collect.
- Lambert's victory in Vojens was achieved after 20 heats. Despite topping the score chart on 13 points to qualify for the final automatically, racing was halted after 20 heats due to rain. This saw Lambert take the top prize of 20 points, with Zmarzlik placed fifth with 12 and Kurtz seventh with 10.
- Lambert achieved his second Speedway GP win at Vojens Speedway Center, adding to his maiden SGP victory there in 2024 on his way to World Championship silver.

SPRINT START

- Kurtz bolstered his tally with victory in the afternoon sprint race, which handed him an extra four points.
- Meanwhile, Lambert also finished second in the sprint race – for the third time this season, knocking Zmarzlik out of Qualifying in Q2.
- Lambert has taken nine points across the three sprint races staged this season, while Kurtz has accrued five (he also hit the tapes in the Manchester sprint, leaving him fourth). Meanwhile, Zmarzlik has failed to qualify for any of the sprints, blocking him from crucial chances to add to his tally. Will this cost him at the end of the season?

- The final sprint race of 2026 takes place in Torun. With four points on the line for the winner and just three separating the top three riders, their order could change again before heat one at the Motoarena.

HIGH STAKES IN TORUN

ROBERT LAMBERT

- If Lambert wins the DEWALT FIM Torun Speedway GP and also finishes in the top two in the sprint race, he is guaranteed to win his first Speedway GP World Championship.
- He would become Britain's ninth FIM Speedway world champion and the first since Tai Woffinden lifted the sport's biggest prize for the final time in 2018.
- He has called Torun's Marian Rose Motoarena his Polish PGE Ekstraliga home track since 2021 and lives in the city with wife Julia. The couple is expecting their first child, a daughter, in November.
- Lambert is captain of the Torun club and led them to their first league title since 2008 last season. They are also in this year's play-off final and won the first leg against Wroclaw 55-35 at the Motoarena last Saturday. Lambert scored 11 paid 13 points.
- But Lambert has not enjoyed the best of Speedway GP fortunes at the Motoarena. He has never scored more than 11 championship points here.

BARTOSZ ZMARZLIK

- Meanwhile, Zmarzlik is bidding to smash the sport's most prestigious record and become speedway's first-ever seven-time individual world champion – surpassing the record of six that he currently shares with New Zealand legend Ivan Mauger and Swedish great Tony Rickardsson.
- The Pole is also seeking to win a fantastic fifth Speedway GP world title on the bounce, having triumphed every season since 2022. He also won gold in 2019 and 2020, with only Artem Laguta denying him seven in a row after winning their epic title fight in 2021. Zmarzlik set a new record of four on the spin with victory in 2025.
- He will break new ground if he wins gold in Torun. He has always led going into the final round every time he has won the Speedway GP World Championship. A big performance in the sprint race could still hand him first position and a real psychological advantage on Saturday.
- This is Zmarzlik's ninth straight season on the Speedway GP World Championship podium. He has the chance to match Aussie legend Jason Crump and Swedish trailblazer Ove Fundin's joint record of 10 straight seasons on the rostrum in 2027 with another top-three finish.

BRADY KURTZ

- Kurtz, meanwhile, lines up in his first-ever DEWALT FIM Torun Speedway GP, bidding to swap 2025 silver for gold. Despite winning the final five rounds of last year, he lost the gold medal by one point to Zmarzlik.
- A second podium finish in only his second season as a full-time Speedway GP rider is already impressive.
- Kurtz is no stranger to Torun, having led Australia to 2025 FIM Speedway of Nations World Championship gold here.
- If he wins Speedway GP gold on Saturday, he will become only the second rider to complete the modern-day FIM Speedway grand slam of Speedway GP, SON and FIM Speedway World Cup gold medals.
- Compatriot Jason Doyle became the first to complete the set when Australia won the 2026 BOLL FIM SWC Final – Warsaw on August 29.

QUALIFICATION RACE

- While the frontrunners have burst clear of the Speedway GP chasing pack, a very tight contest is developing for places in the World Championship's top seven – which guarantees riders a spot in the 2027 SGP series. Leader Lambert, Zmarzlik and Kurtz are all certain of top-seven finishes.
- Fifth placed Leon Madsen is on 90 points, with Max Fricke in sixth, Kacper Woryna in seventh and Patryk Dudek in eighth place – all tied on 89. Only three of the four can finish in the top seven.
- But there is the possibility that the eighth-placed rider will still qualify. This is because Woryna is guaranteed to be in the 2027 Speedway GP series, regardless of where he finishes, after taking third spot at the FIM SGP Challenge in Terenzano on July 25.
- With Challenge winner Lambert guaranteed to finish in the automatic qualification places, this is good news for Latvia's Andzejs Lebedevs, who is now certain of 2027 SGP qualification. Having finished fifth in Italy, he takes the qualification spot vacated by Lambert.
- Meanwhile, fourth-placed Michael Jepsen Jensen is certain of his place in next season's competition on 102 points.
- He can drop no lower than eighth in the standings in Torun and even if he does finish eighth, he will receive the qualification place vacated by Woryna, who would then be in the SGP top seven. MJJ was sixth in the Challenge.
- If both Woryna and Jepsen Jensen join Lambert in finishing in the Speedway GP top seven, this opens the door to Danish star Frederik Jakobsen, seventh in the Challenge, to make his full-time SGP debut in 2027.

- In addition, the winner of the Speedway European Championship is certain of a 2027 Speedway GP place. Woryna and Madsen currently lead the SEC standings on 34, with Jepsen Jensen and Maciej Janowski chasing on 33 and Dudek just behind on 30.
- Finally, the SGP Commission will select three permanent wild cards for 2027. If the SEC winner is also in the Speedway GP top seven or qualified via the FIM SGP Challenge, the SGP Commission will nominate a fourth wild card.

FAREWELL FOR NOW, JASON DOYLE

- Following the Vojens round, Aussie icon Jason Doyle announced that he will be stepping down from the Speedway GP series at the end of 2026.
- He says he may return, either as a permanent rider or as a wild card, and therefore isn't closing the door on the series.
- Doyle, who turns 41 next month, is currently ninth in the Speedway GP standings on 66 points and is yet to reach a final in 2026.
- Doyle has still made history this season, winning the FIM Speedway World Cup with Australia in Warsaw on August 29, becoming the first rider in history to complete the modern-day FIM Speedway grand slam of Speedway GP, SWC and FIM Speedway of Nations world titles.
- He makes another entry into the history books on Saturday. His 115th Speedway GP appearance sees him tie with another Aussie legend Leigh Adams in 10th place on the SGP all-time appearances chart.
- That's quite a feat given that late bloomer Doyle only made his series debut at the 2015 FIM Speedway GP of Poland – Warsaw aged 29.
- Doyle enjoyed his best Speedway GP seasons in 2016 and 2017, winning four SGP events in 2016, before being cruelly denied the world title when he crashed out of the penultimate round here in Torun.
- But he made up for that a year later, defying a broken foot to win the championship with victory at the 2017 FIM Speedway GP of Australia – Melbourne at Marvel Stadium (then known as Etihad Stadium). That was the last time the SGP series went Down Under and outside of Europe.

FIRST OF MANY – MAKSYMILIAN PAWELCZAK

- It's a special night for wild card Maksymilian Pawelczak as he makes his much-anticipated Speedway GP debut in Torun – just 45 minutes from his home city Bydgoszcz.
- Pawelczak has emerged as one of Poland's brightest stars. He won the 2024 FIM Speedway Youth World Championship (SGP3) for 250cc under-16 riders.

- Since making his 500cc debut late last season, he has already won his first Polish Under-21 Championship in Bydgoszcz this year, as well as taking second place in the 2025 event.
- He also earned his place in the 2026 FIM Speedway Under-21 World Championship (SGP2), finishing sixth overall, including a second place at round two in Lodz.
- Pawelczak finished third in the Metalkas 2. Ekstraliga average charts this year on 2.338 points per race as they won the second-tier title to win promotion back to the PGE Ekstraliga after a 13-year absence.
- Pawelczak is a superb all-round motorcyclist and extremely charismatic, speaking fluent English even during his SGP3 days.
- Joining him in Torun are track reserves Antoni Kawczynski and Mikolaj Duchinski – both under-21 riders for host club Torun, who were part of the club's league-title-winning squad in 2025. Kawczynski also won a bronze medal at the FIM SGP3 Final – Wroclaw in 2022.

WHERE TO WATCH

Fans can catch every moment of 2026 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 HBO Max

SLOVAKIA: Live on STVR Sport and HBO Max

USA/CANADA: Live on Racer

REST OF THE WORLD: Live on FIM-MOTO TV