

FULL BACKING



Speed – Adrenaline – Passion,

The racers have just finished their warm-up lap and begin to realign themselves on the grid. The next three minutes of preparations go by in seconds and take an eternity to pass for others.

All of a sudden, they wake from their reverie to the sound of that familiar siren signaling the last minute before GO TIME! They rev their engines, preparing to go full throttle ... red ... GREEN. As they near the first turn, all are at the maximum velocity: the Vmax.

Caz cornering





Since its creation at the beginning of March 2007, Vmax Racing has been running full throttle towards becoming one of the most professional teams in the UAE Superstock 600 Championship Series. Run by team manager, CEO and lead rider Carsten 'Caz' Winter, this team has rocketed along the straights, taken tight turns and shaved innumerable seconds off every rider's times.

Caz, currently one of the fastest Superstock riders on a 2005 model bike (on average five seconds slower than the 2007 models), rode the superior Suzuki GSX-R 600 this season and recorded a fastest lap time of 1:55.694. He will be racing a 2007 GSX-R for the upcoming season. Teammate Ahmed Al-Lanjawi, the only local Emirati in the Series, only began racing on his 2007 GSX-R at this high a level this year and initially recorded a 2:03.747 in his first race. He has since dropped his time to a very quick 1:56.786 in practice and has been spending his Fridays at the Autodrome track days continuing to practice for next season. Mark Schuessler, a recent addition to the team, is from Germany and will be riding Caz's bike from last season. He is yet untested in a race situation, but recorded a 2:04.352 in his first outing at the Autodrome.

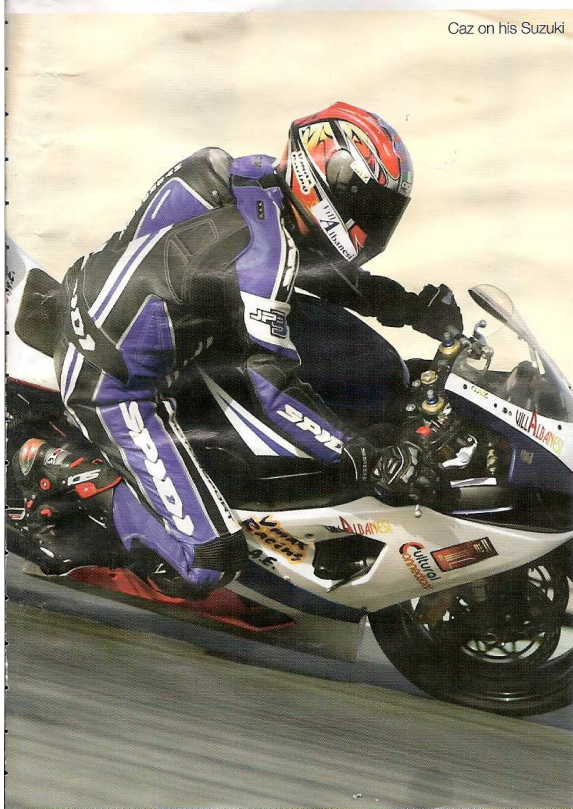
While not as fully sponsored as other teams, Vmax Racing's larger sponsors, such as Cultural Connections Tourism, have made it possible to participate in the Series. As every team knows, racing is not an inexpensive endeavour and the chance to live out one's passion in a competitive and professional environment is too much to pass up. In order for



Caz and Ahmed with their main sponsor from Cultural Connections Tourism

that's Vmax Racing

By Jesse Biroscak



Caz on his Suzuki

Vmax Racing to reach its goals, namely consistent podium finishes in the Superstock races, the businesses of United Arab Emirates should have the flexibility to recognize great potential, especially when it presents itself before them.

A self-motivated and passionate team manager, Caz has devoted the majority of his time and energy into putting a professional team together, even if it does not have sufficient sponsorship. Having raced in the European Championships in the early 1990s, Caz finished seventh and fifth overall in his two seasons on the circuit and recorded a third place finish at the Magny Cours racetrack in France at the European Championship of the Yamaha FZR 600 Cup. Following the deaths of five friends in one year, Caz decided to walk away from this dangerous, yet exhilarating sport. He returned just this past year, after a break of more than eight years, realizing that we have only one life to live and we must live it to the fullest. His decision to put Vmax Racing together is a realisation of one of his life-long dreams: to race for and manage his own professional race team.

This personal investment into the race team has led to an attention to detail unparalleled by the other race teams. The acquisition of the only local Emirati in the Series, Ahmed Al-Lanjawi, is an attractive team trait, especially because of Ahmed's talent and ability to learn quickly. A 30 second lap time reduction between his first and second track days shows that Ahmed's talent is not a marketing ploy. He is here to race and represent his country. He hopes to race in the European Championships in the next few years, being the first Emirati to do so and bringing attention to the sport's growing popularity in the UAE.

This popularity has expanded the number of racers in

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the Superstock 600 Series at the Autodrome to 23, bringing in expatriates from all over the world to participate in this sport which is on the rise in the UAE. The number will grow further with new riders and new series' moving to Dubai for the excitement and the weather, as well as to experience the global buzz first-hand.

One of these riders is Mark Schuessler from Germany. Working for an airline, he came to the UAE eight months ago. Marc and Caz met by luck and quickly found out that they share the same passion for bikes. Marc has passed each level of the Toni Mang Race School in Germany and is now very excited to exhibit his skills on the track, competing with all the fantastic riders out there.

The strong, young talent of Vmax Racing, led by a rider with experience, patience and skill, show the promise of a team threatening to invade the somewhat solidified and tranquil world of the usual podium finishers. Racers feeling comfortable in their current standing need to pay attention – Vmax Racing should not be counted out come the beginning of the 2007-2008 season.

Make sure to watch the guys from Vmax Racing and the other teams next season, fighting for crucial points each and every raceday.



Vmax Racing bikes on display at a recent gala event

Caz leads the way

