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## **PRESS RELEASE: Yamaha Racing Development Team show signs of what's to come in 2009**

Quarter four of 2008 was a happy time for Christan Casella. He brought home his privateer YZFR6 at Eastern Creek with his best result of the season to finish 8<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2008 ASC Supersport Competition. But ask Christan what really made him buzz and you're sure to hear about his excitement at the prospect of riding under a newly conceived development team, supported by Yamaha Racing Development.

The thought of riding under a Yamaha titled development team (YRDT) with the championship winning support of YRT was enough to fuel the next few months of coordination & preparation for the 2009 ASBK Supersport Competition. Christan trained exceptionally hard to ensure his fitness was optimal through the Christmas break and in the lead up to Round 1. With the help of Major Sponsor Agmek Ballarat and the professional services of Dynoverks YRDT made its debut at Round 1 of the ASBK at Phillip Island over the weekend.

Christan climbed onboard his new YZFR6 on Friday and qualified 9<sup>th</sup> for the weekend's racing. Knowing there was more time to be had during racing YRDT set our race plan for the weekend and turned up ready to party for Race 1 on Saturday. During the race Christan improved two positions to take 7<sup>th</sup> place over the line.

The real thrill came later that afternoon when a planned change to YRDT's number 1 bike was made with immediate results on track. During Race 2 Christan was able to find a 1 second per lap reduction enabling him to dice with Suzuki's Troy Herfoss & Vern Graham Yamaha's Scott Charlton, eventually taking 5<sup>th</sup> place in front of the pair at the chequered flag.

Not content with this result YRDT's gun mechanic's Dean Oughtred & Rob Hill replaced the #1 bike's clutch that night with the aim of allowing Christan to get a better start on Sunday morning. Ironically smooth as the clutch was Christan bogged the R6 weapon on the start line and proceeded to take 3 of the 8 laps to pass a number of riders, eventually taking 8<sup>th</sup> place behind YRT's Jamie Stauffer.

YRDT & Christan Casella are placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall after Round 1 and are very encouraged by this solid start to the season. When asked about the start of the season Christan replied "I had a great time racing this weekend and am really happy with the result in Race 2. I feel like the start in Race 3 has taken a little of the shine off the weekend but more importantly we made good progress in setting up the new R6 and have taken some good steps forward to suit the bigger picture.

"I'd particularly like to thank Agmek for their support in contributing to YRDT & my racing not only in 2009 but in previous years, Yamaha Racing Development & the Yamaha Racing Team, Dynoverks, Activation Energy, Roost Industries, Sharp Racing Products, Link International, and Monza Imports for their support.

"I'm really looking forward to Round 2 in a few weeks time and would also like to send my best wishes Jamie, Max and the Stauffer Family."

Team Manager Chris Hutchins-Sach had this to say about the weekend: "The YRDT crew are all really pleased to see Christan's early season race pace and the potential that the rest of the year has to offer. There's no doubt that his performance during Race 2 showed signs of what's to come and knowing the R6 has more in it than Christan was able to use this weekend is even more encouraging.

"I'd like to thank Christan for bringing the bike back in one piece! YRDT mechanics Dean & Hilly, YRT's Frank Pons, Ian Irving & John Redding for their support."