

The Adventures of Red Dog & Bat Devil



14. Phillip Island

It was a long awaited dream come true for the boys to visit Phillip Island on MotoGP weekend. To celebrate the occasion they treated themselves to grandstand seats overlooking pit straight. Red was peering into the Stoner pit garage, through his

binoculars, when he spotted a kangaroo acting as mascot. "Nice work if you can get it" thought Red, who had fantasized many times about spending the weekend on the other side of the fence.



Red never gave it another thought until later in the day he spotted a Devil like character making merriment with Jorge Lorenzo in the Yamaha garage. "You've gotta be kidding" said Red. "What's up?" asked Devil. "There's some dude, dressed like you, acting the fool in the Lorenzo pit." "What?" asked Devil. "Hang on a minute" said Red. "There's a Dog too. He's pretending to chase some bimbo in the Rossi camp." Red started looking around for the Bat character and sure enough there he was, holding a US flag for Nikki Hayden. "Looks like a bunch of dudes had four fury suits made, in our image, and found themselves a gig at the MotoGP" said Red.

That night, while the boys were lounging around in their king sized camp chairs, Red mused "you know, if we arrive at the track gate early enough, we'll get that gig in the pits." "I'm in" said Dog. "Me too" said Devil. "And me" said Bat, who was already practicing his moves for the Tennessee Wig Walk.

The boys arrived at the track long before opening time, explained to the guys on security "who they were" and they were quickly ushered in the direction of the pits. "How easy was that?" said Dog. "We could've been terrorists" said Bat, "but we weren't" said Red while he punched at the air, with his boxing gloves, a few more times.

When the paid mascots arrived they were stopped at the gate by security. The security guard laughed his head off and said "you know it's illegal to masquerade as someone else, now either buy a ticket or go home; and next time find yourselves a tailor who can make a suite that looks like the real thing." One of the dudes phoned their agent to explain what had happened. "Quit stuffing me around, dude" said the agent. "I'm watching Bat on TV as we speak, he's got the crowd doing some little dance" and then he hung up.

"This has got to be the coolest job in the world" said Red who had his autograph book signed by every rider in pit lane. "I feel like a super star" said Bat after tagging along with Nikki Hayden during the rider parade. Devil,

Lorenzo's side kick for the weekend, got into the spirit of things and growled every time Rossi appeared on the TV screen. Even Stoner's wife gave it a rest and handed her grid duties to Red, who proudly held the umbrella for Casey.

Dog acted like he had nine tails when Lorenzo skated off the track on the first corner, leaving his man, Rossi, looking very convincing as the future 2009 world champion; Devil remained in character too and pretended to sulk for the rest of the race. After Stoner took the chequered flag, Red became insufferable and called out to Devil, "Some mascot you turned out to be!" Dog remained quietly smug in the sure knowledge that Valentino Rossi, after finishing second at Phillip Island, would probably take the world champions crown, in Sepang, next weekend.

"Come on Red, let's go and join our guys on the podium" said Dog. "I say we quit while we're ahead" said Red "and find out where they're going for the after party."

"Well, I guess we did those working dudes a big favour this weekend" said Red as they sauntered back to camp in the early hours of the following morning. "What do you mean?" asked Bat. "Well, they'll still get the money, we just got the prize!"



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