

# Marquez explains Vinales impeding

**Austin**  
Reigning MotoGP champion Marc Marquez says the block on Maverick Vinales that cost him pole for the Austin race happened because he was focused on keeping Andrea Iannone ahead.

Vinales was on a quick lap and set to challenge Marquez's provisional pole benchmark when he came up on the Honda rider in the final sector and was forced to back out, gesticulating angrily at Marquez as he rode past.

He recovered with his next lap, finishing four tenths off Marquez in second, before a three-place penalty for the latter promoted the Yamaha man to first place on the grid.

Speaking after qualifying, Marquez insisted he'd tried to move out of Vinales' way as quickly as he could - and that he hadn't noticed his rival sooner because he

was preoccupied with Iannone riding slow up ahead.

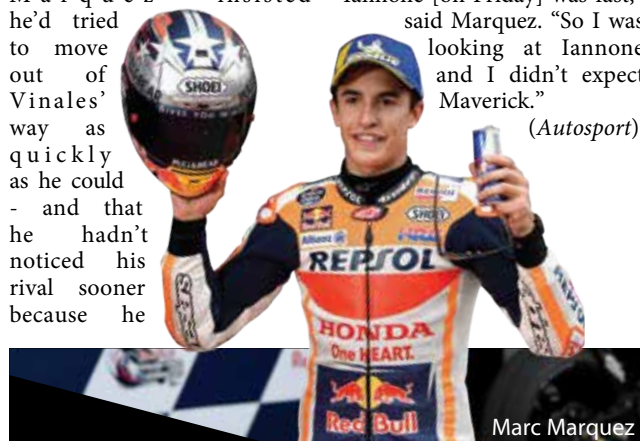
"Unluckily, I was going out of the box, I expected that nobody was coming behind and suddenly I heard an engine," Marquez recalled.

"I was looking more for Iannone than who was coming behind, and when I heard the engine I go in as quick as possible - but looks like I disturbed the lap."

Marquez explained that he was concerned about having Iannone follow him on his flying lap, given the Suzuki rider had been quick throughout the weekend.

"Here normally I don't need slipstream but I know that a fast rider behind me can improve his laptime a lot and Iannone [on Friday] was fast," said Marquez. "So I was looking at Iannone and I didn't expect Maverick."

(Autosport)



Marc Marquez

# Tom Sykes' first victory ends Jonathan Rea's winning streak

**Assen**  
Tom Sykes recorded his first World Super Bike victory of the season as he ended championship leader Jonathan Rea's Assen winning streak.

Reigning world champion Rea had claimed his eighth straight win at the Dutch circuit on Saturday.

But Sykes overshadowed the Northern Irishman this time, with Michael van der Mark (Yamaha) finishing behind the two Kawasakis to claim a

second successive podium in front of his home crowd.

Sykes started from pole and produced a dominant performance to repeat his 2013 Assen win.

Xavi Fores (Ducati) finished fourth, with Welshman Chaz Davies (Ducati) fifth and Jordi Torres (MV Agusta) sixth.

Rea's lead at the top of the championship standings from Davies now stands at 30 points. (Autosport)



Tom Sykes rides

## London Marathon

# Farah finishes third as Kipchoge wins

**London**  
Britain's Mo Farah finished third at the London Marathon in a new British record as Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge won the race for a third time.

Farah kept pace with the leaders for much of the race but was two minutes and four seconds behind Kipchoge.

He crossed the line in two hours, six minutes and 21 seconds to beat Steve Jones' 33-year-old British record.

The four-time Olympic champion was competing in his first 26.2-mile race since retiring from the track.

Kipchoge - regarded as one of the greatest marathon runners of all time - was on course for a new world record but slowed in the final stages of a gruelling race in record-high temperatures to finish in 2:04:17.

That was 80 seconds outside the record held by his compatriot Dennis Kimetto.

Ethiopia's Tola Shura Kitata finished in a surprise second place, 32 seconds behind



Medallists Eliud Kipchoge (C) of Kenya, Tola Shura Kitata (L) of Ethiopia and Mo Farah of Britain celebrate (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

Kipchoge.

Farah's only previous marathon was in London in 2014 when he finished eighth.

He returned this year having given up track racing to focus on the marathon and faced a stellar field including Kipchoge, three-time Olympic gold medallist Kenenisa Bekele and last year's London Marathon winner Daniel Wanjiru.

He beat both Bekele and Wanjiru and finished 52 seconds inside Jones' British record, set in 1985.

That was despite confusion at a water bottle station earlier in the race where he missed his drink and turned back on the course to collect a different bottle before being involved in a heated exchange with one of the motorbike safety officers as he made his way back to the front of the race.

"I was saying to the people on motorbikes to tell the staff

to be a bit helpful instead of taking pictures," Farah said afterwards.

"I wasn't wasting energy, I just needed a drink. I had to get it right."

Farah also said he was "knackered" after the race and has "a lot to learn about marathons".

"I really enjoyed today," he added.

"It's so different to being on the track, it's different pain and different training but I've enjoyed it."

"You get heavy legs. Mentally you need to be strong and pace yourself." (BBC)



Mo Farah reacts (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

# Cheruiyot claims women's elite title

**London**  
Kenya's Vivian Cheruiyot won the 2018 London Marathon but Paula Radcliffe's 'mixed-gender' race world record remained intact.

Cheruiyot, 34, crossed the finish line in an personal best two hours, 18 minutes and 31 seconds.

That was more than three minutes slower than the 2:15:25 four-time British Olympian Radcliffe ran in 2003.

Mary Keitany and Tirunesh Dibaba had been looking to break Radcliffe's record but both faded.

Olympic 5,000m champion Cheruiyot ran her first marathon in London last year and finished fourth overall



Vivian Cheruiyot crosses the finish line (Pic courtesy: Xinhua)

before winning in Frankfurt in October.

Kenya's Brigid Kosgei (2:20:13) finished second, with Ethiopia's Tadelech Bekele (2:21:30) third.

Keitany had been on course to break Radcliffe's record but eventually finished fifth (2:24:27) having lost the

lead she had held from the start with around five miles remaining. Great Britain's Lily Partridge (2:29:24) claimed a personal best to finish eighth, with team-mate Tracy Barlow (2:32:09) ninth.

Keitany had made her intentions clear before the race by running with male pacemakers in an attempt to overhaul Radcliffe's record.

And everything looked in control through 10km before Keitany began to pull slightly clear of Dibaba at nine and a half miles, half a minute quicker than Radcliffe.

Keitany's problems emerged with around 10 miles to go and she eventually fell 14 seconds behind the world record pace after 18 miles. (BBC)