



Media

Francesco Bagnaia

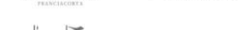
Born in Turin on 14th January 1997, Bagnaia took the first steps of his motorcycle racing career in Minimoto racing. Crowned European MiniGP Champion in 2009, Pecco was soon recruited by the VR46 Riders' Academy. After finishing second at the end of the 125 PreGP Championship, the Turin-based rider participated in the 2011 and 2012 Spanish Championships in the 125cc and Moto3 categories, finishing both seasons with a win and a third place in the final standings respectively. Ready for the world stage, Pecco made his Moto3 World Championship debut in 2013 with Team Italia before joining the newly formed SKY Racing Team VR46 the following year. In 2015, with Team Aspar, Bagnaia scored his first podium in the lightweight class, finishing third at the French GP at Le Mans and fighting for the rostrum on several other occasions. In 2016, his first win in the World Championship arrived at Assen, and with six podiums (including two wins), he ended his third season in Moto3 in fourth place overall with 145 points to his credit.

In 2017, Bagnaia moved to Moto2 with the Sky Racing Team VR46 and won the Best Rookie of the Year award, ending his first season in the category with four podiums. 2018 was the decisive year for the young rider from Piedmont who, with 8 wins and 12 podiums, won the Moto2 World Championship title and the promotion to MotoGP for the following year on the Desmosedici GP bike of the Pramac Racing Team.

After a first part of the season dedicated to adapting to the new category, Pecco began to shine at the end of 2019, achieving an excellent fourth place in the Australian GP. In 2020, again with the Ducati of the Italian satellite team, the rider from Turin scored his first podium (second place) in MotoGP at his home Grand Prix in Misano Adriatico. In the following event, held at the same track, he came close to winning the race despite still recovering from a bad injury to his right leg, which forced him to sit out from three races.

Thanks to his determination and talent, Pecco secured a spot in the Ducati Lenovo Team, factory squad of the Borgo Panigale-based squad, for 2021. In the first GP in Qatar, Bagnaia took his first pole position in the premier class to secure a podium finish in the race by finishing third. Second, at Portimão and then at Jerez behind teammate and winner Jack Miller, the Italian rider proved more than once to be ready to hunt down his first success, but a crash at his home GP at Mugello slowed his progression.

After coming close again to victory in the Austrian GP - which he finished in third place - Pecco officially turned his season around at the Grand Prix of Aragón. Starting from pole position, the Italian finally secured his first success in MotoGP after an outstanding performance that saw him holding off a fierce Marc Márquez for the entire race. Bagnaia scored another incredible victory in the GP of San Marino and Riviera di Rimini only seven days later. After closing the Americas GP in third place, the Ducati rider was back in title contention. Unfortunately, a crash at the following race in Misano while in the lead put a definitive end to his title hopes, and Fabio Quartararo was crowned World Champion. Determined to round off his first season with the Ducati Lenovo Team on a high, Pecco returned to winning ways in the last two events of the year. With two consecutive wins at



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Portimão and Valencia, he confirmed his second place in the overall standings, 26 points behind the leader.

In 2022, Bagnaia continued wearing the colours of the factory team and started the World Championship as one of the favourites for the title fight. However, the first races presented some difficulties, including a few crashes. After a fantastic victory in the Spanish GP and one in his home race at Mugello, Pecco crashed again in the German GP and found himself 91 points down from the top of the standings. The Italian rider didn't give up, and in the second half of the season, he made a record-breaking comeback. After scoring four more consecutive wins, Bagnaia continued to add points and took the Championship lead in the Grand Prix of Australia with only three races remaining on the Calendar. After another fantastic victory in Sepang, Pecco was crowned the 2022 World Champion in the final round at Valencia. It was also the first all-Italian World Title since 1972, 50 years after Giacomo Agostini with the MV Agusta in the 500cc class. Bagnaia also became the first Italian rider to win the MotoGP World Championship on an Italian bike.

The reigning World Champion was undoubtedly among the top contenders for the 2023 season as he immediately showcased his dominance by winning the first Sprint and the Portuguese GP at the Autodromo Internacional do Algarve in Portimão. The triumph set the stage for three more victories in the Sprint races held in Austin (USA), Mugello (Italy), and at the Red Bull Ring (Austria), along with four additional wins in the Spanish GP, the Italian GP, the Dutch GP, and the Austrian GP. With a comfortable lead of 62 points over Jorge Martín (Pramac Racing Team), Pecco's World Title defence appeared to face no obstacles. However, a terrible accident during the GP of Catalunya in Barcelona momentarily slowed down his pursuit of the Title. Despite the frightening circumstances, the accident resulted in only severe bruises for Bagnaia, allowing him to participate in the San Marino and Riviera di Rimini GP scheduled for the following week. Still in the process of recovery, Pecco secured a third position in both the Sprint and Sunday's GP at his home round. Meanwhile, an increasingly in-form Martín narrowed his Championship disadvantage to just a few points, ultimately becoming the new leader of the standings with another victory in the Sprint race of the Indonesian GP. However, his lead proved short-lived: in Sunday's race at the Mandalika International Street Circuit, Bagnaia secured an incredible victory despite starting with the 13th fastest time, while his Spanish rival suffered a crash. This marked the beginning of a heated head-to-head battle between the two Ducati riders, a rivalry that persisted until the final round at Valencia. There, Bagnaia reaffirmed his World Champion status by clinching his seventh win of the season.

Personal file

Age: 27 (Born 14th January 1997)

Birth Place: Turin, Italy

Residence: Pesaro, Italy

Marital Status: Engaged

Height: 5 ft 7 in (176 cm)

Weight: 141 lb (64 kg)

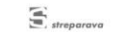
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Racing Statistics

Bike: Ducati Desmosedici GP

Race Number: 63

GPs Started: 191 (86 x MotoGP, 36 x Moto2, 69 x Moto3)

First GP: Qatar 2019 (MotoGP), Qatar 2017 (Moto2), Qatar 2013 (Moto3)

Wins: 28 (18 MotoGP + 8 Moto2 + 2 Moto3)

First GP Win: Aragón 2021 (MotoGP), Qatar 2018 (Moto2), Netherlands 2016 (Moto3)

Pole Positions: 25 (18 MotoGP + 6 Moto2 + 1 Moto3)

First Pole: Qatar 2021 (MotoGP), France 2018 (Moto2), Britain 2016 (Moto3)

Fastest Laps: 18 (13 MotoGP + 3 Moto2 + 2 Moto3)

Points: 1085 (MotoGP) + 480 (Moto2) + 271 (Moto3)

World Titles: 3 (MotoGP 2023, MotoGP 2022, Moto2 2018)



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