Haga moves to British Superbike

After his time ended in World Superbike, where he was an institution, the Japanese veteran has landed a seat in the world's most competitive domestic road racing title
Japan's Noriyuki Haga is back on a Yamaha – but not in the World Superbike title where he once roamed with authority over the last three decades.

Instead, he has signed with Swan Yamaha to compete in the 2012 British Superbike Championship (BSB) as a replacement for the injured Ian Hutchinson. The BSB title commences at Brands Hatch from April 6-9, and will also include Australia's Josh Brookes on a Suzuki.

"It is a new challenge for me to race in BSB and I am now ready for the new season with Swan Yamaha," said Haga. "I feel that after many years in the same series this will be a kind of restart to my racing career.

"BSB has grown a lot and I have big support from the fans in the UK, so I liked the idea of racing in the championship. It will also be a return to Yamaha, where I spent so many years taking many wins and now I feel like I am going back to my family. I have won races with Yamaha before in the World championship and now I hope that we can do it again in BSB."

Haga has already celebrated success on BSB circuits at world level including podium finishes at Brands Hatch, Donington Park, Silverstone and Assen.

Haga leaves World Superbike with 43 race wins and a seven-time top three championship finisher.

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