

Valentino Rossi



► **Born:** February 16, 1979, *Urbino, Italy*. First jumps on bike at age two

► **1997:** Wins 11 of 15 races en route to first world championship, in 125cc class, on *Aprilia* bike

► **1999:** Wins **250cc** championship in only second season in class

► **2000:** Moves to *Honda* and 500cc class, finishing second

► **2001:** World champion, winning 11 races in final 500cc championship

► **2002:** World champion in newly created *MotoGP* class – using powerful four-stroke 989cc engines

► **2003:** Retains title, signs two-year contract with *Yamaha* for \$12m

► **2004-05:** Wins sixth and seventh world championships

► **2006:** Renews Yamaha contract for 2006 season, but test drives for *Ferrari* F1, fuelling speculation Rossi may move from two wheels to four