



YAMAHA



Race Report: GNCC Rnd 3 Steele Creek NC

Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: AmPro Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 11th XC1, 29th OA



This race was always going to be a big ask with my hand. Steele Creek is a tough track with the rough down hills making it particularly hard to hold on. One highlight was ripping another hole shot. That gave me a boost in adrenaline and for a few miles I rode with a deluded sense of strength, where it was just mind over matter and I was gonna do it. But with each passing downhill reminding me just how sore the hand was, it wasn't long till I was cruising and allowing plenty of room for those behind me to come on by. It made no sense to try hold anyone off while I'm not in any condition to race.

Just after completing the first lap, I came upon Thad Duvall, who had crashed hard and was in a lot of pain. We weren't far from scoring so I parked the bike and ran back down the hill and told someone to get the medics up to attend to Thad. Returning to the race I was a long way back but probably where I was going to end up anyway.

I continued to circulate and tick off laps. Nothing fast as my hand never really loosened up but it felt good to be back on the bike after resting for the week.

By the end of the race I was getting pretty beat. Riding slow you seem to hit every hole and impact on each square edge instead of floating over half of them. I was glad to finish the event but a little disappointed not to be able to give my best.

We have another two weeks before the next GNCC and hope to be in much better shape by then.

1st: Charlie Mullins

2nd: Kailub Russell

3rd: Chris Bach

Pic thanks to Ken Hill

Paul Whibley is supported by:

AmPro Yamaha, Monster Energy, Shoei, Sidi, Smith, G2, Asterisk, Moto SR, Vortex Ignitions, EC3D, Bush Riders MCC, Darbis, GHQ, Sargent Motorcycles, Yamaha NZ, Rosscos Start Up Services, Works Connection, Pro Taper, Race Pace Services, Unabiker, Leatt Brace, Tire Balls, bikesportnz.com, Stuk, KettleClamp, Alliance Offroad, Ride Eng.

The AmPro Yamaha Team is supported by:

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