



YAMAHA



Race Report: GNCC Rnd 5 Kentucky

Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: AmPro Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 5th XC1



Constant rain starting Friday night and continuing through to around noon on Sunday had the fifth round of the GNCC series all shook up. The youth bike race ran on a severely shortened track and the AM bikes were merged in with the PM race. The race was also on a reduced course of around 8 miles and a shortened duration of 2 hours.

I got a good jump off the line and got to turn one up front but made a mess of rounding the turn and Thad Duvall snuck by and took the hole shot honours. I followed Thad for the first couple miles, trying to avoid the thick roost. At around the 3 mile mark Thad and I went right around a mudhole and lost time to others who went left. Even at this early stage it was hard to tell who was who. The track was quite different to what we walked. A lot of sections were diverted to roads and what wasn't, was cutting up fast. Beginning the second lap we ran into traffic, some riders had only made it just inside the first woods section off the start line before getting stuck. Mid lap a large bottleneck sent us scrambling into the woods to find a way around. I got to a point where I had to jump off and drag my bike under a log to get on the uphill side of a blockage. I thought this section might end the race (and it did for many) but we kept smashing a way through the trees to get past lap after lap.

Late in the race a stick speared through my front fender and into my radiator, an Evans expulsion engulfed the bike. I thought my race was done right there. Lucky Yamahas are tough and I completed the race, albeit at a reduced pace, to take 5th in the XC1.

Tough day, but stoked to finish and get some points when many didn't.

1st: Thad Duvall

2nd: Josh Strang

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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