



YAMAHA



Race Report: Energy Honda XC Rnd 1

Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: AmPro Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 1st



The shotgun blast broke the nervous silence and then the shuffling of bodies as they ran to the bikes before the roar of the race began. I got a good start but laid it down on the slick green grass on turn two. I wasn't the only one picking my bike up as the leaders took off down the dusty clay track although I held onto the bars and kept the bike running so I was up quickly and back into the chase. Picking guys off quickly and taking a few risks in the dust to maintain contact with National Enduro and XC champ Adrian Smith who was up front. Mid-way through the first lap I was on his tail but it took a while to work a way past. Finally it happened on the bulldozed ridgeline not long before we dropped back down to the farmland. I began to build a lead but gave it away with a wrong turn coming into the yards for scoring. I was able to re-create the gap quickly on the second lap as we entered the clay track section again. A battle was brewing behind me with Daryl Hurley (former NZ MX and SX champ) pulling up behind Adrian and searching for a way by. A lap later Daryl had made his move and set his sights on me. There were a couple of spots on the track where I could monitor the lead I had and as Daryl upped the pace I would respond and maintain the gap.

Katherine kept me informed with pit boards and recruited Justin Fryer to help man the IMS dump can in the pit stops.

The game continued for the whole 8 lap, 3 hour event with Daryl and myself pulling well clear of Adrian.

At the finish I had managed to stay ahead of Daryl and take the win. Adrian had suffered a crash in the dust but remained in third.

1st: Paul Whibley

2nd: Daryl Hurley

3rd: Adrian Smith

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

The AmPro Yamaha Team is supported by:

FMF Kenda Yamalube Asterisk CV4 Cycle Gear E-Batt EBC Brakes Factory Connection Fastway GYTR IMS Leatt Brace Motion Pro MSR Pro-Clean Rekluse Shoei Slavens TM Designworks Cycra Twin Air Wiseco ZipTy Racing AllBalls Racing Pro Taper Stuk

