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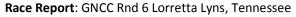












Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: N Fab AmPro Yamaha Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 7th



A downpour as we were gearing up to head to the start line left a lot of surface water in the pits. This quickly ran off the surrounding hills that held the bulk of the trail and we didn't really expect any mud as the soil is pretty rocky at the Lorretta Lyn venue. What it did do was make turns one, two and three extremely slick, with guys going down all over the place. I got a poor jump of the line and ended up getting filled in and dodging bikes as they went down.

I was mid pack as we went into the trees and wasn't really feeling comfortable in the slick conditions. The trail was pretty hard pack in a lot of places and the slippery trail didn't inspire confidence. The few sections of fresh trail were nice but they seemed few and far between and we spent the majority of time on well used trail. I had to come in for a fresh set of Smith goggles after a lap, with a lot of trees hanging low over the trail I used more tear-offs than normal.

In the second lap conditions were starting to improve and the face slappers had most of the water knocked off. The trail was still pretty slick but continued to improve during the race. I got going mid race and made a pass happen on Jason Thomas. Late in the race I was also catching Andrew Delong on the Husky. On the second to last lap I tangled with a lapped rider on a hill and his bike ended up falling on mine, costing valuable time that I was not able to make up. Coming to the line on the last lap I had Andrew in my sights but was in no position to try for a pass and had to settle for seventh. A pretty disappointing result and one I will be working hard not to repeat any time soon.

1st: Charlie Mullins 2nd: Kailub Russell

3rd: Josh Strang

Pic, 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. MotoSeat

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