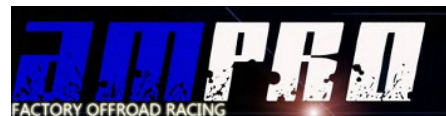




YAMAHA



Race Report: Mid East Rnd 1 Palmetto Raceway

Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: AmPro Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 6th



Bit of a tough start to the season with a sixth place finish at the first Rnd of the Mid East Series. I got a good jump off the line from an average gate pick on the outside. I ran deep into the turn and nearly took the holeshot but had to settle into second for a mile until I could push through to the front. Once in the lead I tried to go early as there was a large entry for this event and I knew lappers were going to be tough. I opened up a gap on Josh Strang and Ricky Russell who were running 2nd and 3rd. I mile or so from the end of the lap I think I had maybe 10 or 15 seconds lead, and my rear brake went out. I almost crashed twice not being able to stop for turns and ploughed into the woods. I decided to back it down and pull into the pits when I could, to assess the problem. I pulled over and let Josh and Ricky by, then Takashi and Bollinger came by too with Matt Nix and Callan May right behind me when I pulled off the track. Darrell Raines lent a hand and helped fix the problem but by the time I re-joined the race I was a long way back.

I decided to keep riding and complete the race, to get some good bike time before the upcoming GNCC in Florida in a week.

- 1st: Josh Strang
- 2nd: Ricky Russell
- 3rd: Takashi Koikeda

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.

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