



Race Report: NZ GNCC Round 3 Maddix Park, Tauranga

Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: AmPro Yamaha/Sargent Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 1st



Over the weekend I travelled up to Tauranga and raced round 3 of the NZ GNCC series. The trip combined some catching up with family and my Dad even came along for a ride and helped out in the pits.

I was a little rusty after a couple weeks off a bike and laid it down in the first turn (too much driving a bulldozer). It was surprisingly slick and I thought I was being cautious enough but as I chopped the throttle to start the turn, both wheels stepped out and there was no bringing them back. The whole pro class roosted past as I scrambled back to my feet. Remounting, the chase was on. I picked off bikes left and right, railed banks and drifted through some more slick turns. I was soon back up front although I was not sure I was leading till I got back to the pits and Scotty Brooker from MotoSR gave me the signal.

The track was drier than I expected with the rain they have had but there were plenty of unexpected slick spots that made the heart skip a beat. The track was pretty fun with a layout that was reversed from usual and as a few bikes stirred the soil and some ruts formed, traction improved.

Up front it was pretty smooth sailing. As the track got rougher I felt more comfortable and my lead grew. Scotty handled the IMS dump can like the good old days and I was set to tackle the final leg of the event.

Late in the race smoke and ash from a fire plumed over a section of the track and I was concerned how close it was. The last lap was completed safely and I comfortably took the win. The fire turned out to be on the neighbouring property and no real threat to the race.

1st: Paul Whibley

2nd: Scott Birch

3rd: Chris Mexted

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, Rossco's 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:

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