

**Race Report:** Tennessee Knock Out**Rider:** Paul Whibley**Team:** AmPro Yamaha**Bike:** Yamaha YZ 250**Result:** 4th

The second edition of the TKO proved to be much tougher than the first. I again chose to ride a 250 2 stroke as this kind of event is no place for a 450. Actually the last time I raced a 2 stroke was at this event last year and with not a lot of time on one since, I felt a little rusty in the opening hot lap and first knockout round.

I made a few adjustments to the suspension and swapped the G2 throttle cam to a much smoother one to help tame the abrupt power in the technical rock sections.

A brief thunder storm passed over the area before the second knockout race and this really changed the game from go fast, to get to the finish line. With the most technical sections added and now well watered, just finishing the last knockout would get you a ticket to the final. Mike Brown and I were first to the rock waterfall section and we both tried different lines, neither worked out and we floundered around until ex trails rider Cody Webb turned up and picked his way up through the rocks. I tried a different line and managed to get up and through the section. It wasn't pretty and it involved some dragging and lifting but it got me through to the final with a third fastest time.

10 laps of the "short course" that was kinda like a natural enduro X track would complete the final. I got an average start and was back in 7<sup>th</sup> and lost a little more time when the hill climb became bottlenecked with bikes. I felt like I wasn't riding fast but I was progressing through the course and climbing the leader board as others cooked bikes and bodies in the 45 minute final. It was intense the whole time no matter how slow you went as there was nowhere to catch your breath and the high humidity made the moto a killer. By the finish I was up to 4<sup>th</sup>, happy to survive the TKO again.

1<sup>st</sup>: Mike Brown2<sup>nd</sup>: Cody Webb3<sup>rd</sup>: Russell Bobbitt

Pic thanks to Ryan Brehob

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

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

