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Race Report: Mid East XC Rnd 1

Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: AmPro Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 1st



The Palmetto MX complex held the opening round of the Mid East XC series and drawing a huge turnout of over 300 bikes for the 2 hour event. The sandy 8.5 mile track would get worked pretty hard by the end of the day.

With 13th pick of the line I hoped it wouldn't be a hint of the day to come. The green flag signalled the start and the YZ fired up quickly, taking the hole shot. I swiftly opened up a lead of about 15 seconds and as we came out onto the first MX track I could see Josh Strang on his new Kawasaki in second. The gap remained the same over the first lap but somewhere in the second lap Josh must have had some problems because my lead jumped to a minute.

The track was pretty fun with the sandy soil being good practice for the upcoming GNCC in Florida. But the number of bikes on the track created a constant stream of riders circulating and passing lapped riders was a battle when you come upon 5 or 6 at a time!!!

I had the Kenda Sand Mad rear tire on for some testing and that thing seriously eats up the sand. The drive it got out of the turns was awesome.

Bonez and Katherine handled the pit stop and informed me I had a minute and a half on Josh with Japanese rider Takashi Koikeda in third.

The last three laps went smoothly and I managed to negotiate the mobile chicanes without too much drama. Big thanks to the riders who gave the pros plenty of room to come through while being lapped.

1st: Paul Whibley

2nd: Josh Strang

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.

The AmPro Yamaha Team is supported by:

FMF Kenda Yamalube Asterisk CV4 Cycle Gear Factory Connection GYTR IMS Leatt Brace MSR Pro-Clean Rekluse Shoei Slavens TM Designworks Cycra Twin Air Wiseco ZipTy Racing AllBalls Racing Pro Taper Stuk Ride Eng Moto seat

