



www.paulwhibley.co.nz



























Rider: Paul Whibley Team: AmPro Yamaha Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 1st



Again the battle for the hole shot was between Russell Bobbitt and myself. He squeezed me out going into turn one so I tried to go around the outside in turn two but he heard the YZ 450 coming and covered the line. Nick Fahringer spotted the opening and snuck up the inside of me. I had to back off to save my Smith goggles from getting soaked as we crossed a little creek before heading up a big powdery hill and into the woods. I was hard on Nicks heels, wanting to make a move asap to try prevent Russell getting out of sight. A couple miles in Nick spun sideways on some roots as we exited another creek crossing and shot off into the weeds. I snuck past and set off after the fast disappearing KTM. Entering the super tight section I couldn't see Russell and knew his Enduro experience would pay off in the first gear slalom through the trees. Closing out the 7 mile loop I could see him at the end of some faster straights and as we worked our way through the grass track that led to scoring I was able to close up onto his rear wheel. It took me a full lap to find a way around and in the grass track just before scoring I made my move, around the outside on a sweeping turn. Russell fought back by applying all the pressure onto me. I was feeling a little looser and began to flow better through the tight section that Russell earlier held an advantage in. I slowly opened up a lead, and by the fuel stop had a slim margin of 6 seconds. A quick splash in the IMS tank and I was sent back to battle. Like the last round I was able to pull away in the second half and cement my place out front, taking the seventh round win. Russell remained in second with Nick fighting off a challenge from my teammate Jordan Ashburn.

1st: Paul Whibley

2nd: Russell Bobbitt

3rd: Nick Fahringer

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