



**Race Report:** GNCC Round 1 Florida

**Rider:** Paul Whibley

**Team:** AmPro Yamaha

**Bike:** Yamaha YZ450 F

**Result:** 1st



With the wave of the green flag all the pre-season talk and hype was put to an end. Time to put up or shut up as they say.

We pretty much picked up where we left off, grabbing another hole shot and leading the way around the 12 mile whooped out sand pit. I was riding pretty relaxed up front and was expecting some young guns to come blazing by, gunning for some glory. Instead I remained in the lead for the lap, everyone seemed content to run my pace. Over the second lap Charlie Mullins and I opened a slight gap and he took the lead right before the barrels when I stalled the bike. I restarted quickly and was soon on his tail, as we came out of the palmetto root section I retook the lead. I remained up front for another lap before the next challenger moved into position. Florida native and sand master Garrett Edminsten pushed past and upped the pace. I responded and gave chase, again retaking the lead position just before we came through scoring.

With a sand race gas consumption goes through the roof so we fuelled twice and the pit crew of Gary, Katherine and Ryan had everything worked out spot on.

With two laps to go Rory Mead moved up to second to take his shot. By now I was starting to feel it. The whoops and heat were taking their toll but I was confident everyone else was hurting too. White flag and one lap to go. Charlie had surged back to 2nd and put the pressure back on. After two and a half hours, the last lap was like a 30 minute moto. Charlie pushed as hard as he could and was 3 or 4 seconds back coming into the last turns. Not close enough to make a challenge. That was until a rider went down right in front of me, slowing me in the next to last turn. I got by just in time to fend off Charlie's move on the outside and take the win.

Awesome start to the year!!!

1<sup>st</sup>: Paul Whibley

2<sup>nd</sup>: Charlie Mullins

3<sup>rd</sup>: Stu Baylor

pic courtesy of Krista Shaw @digitaloffroad

Paul Whibley is supported by:

AmPro Yamaha, Monster Energy, Shoei, Sidi, Smith, G2, CTi, 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

The AmPro Yamaha Team is supported by:

FMF Kenda Yamalube Asterisk CV4 Cycle Gear E-Batt EBC Brakes Factory Connection Gaerne 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

