



Race Report: OMA Round 9, the Moose Run, Illinois

Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: AmPro Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 2nd



It felt as though winter had arrived as temperatures struggled into the 40s for the race. I grabbed the hole shot and tucked in as I led the way through the wide open corn fields. I ducked under the culvert that ran under the road then another under the railway, careful not to scrap my freshly painted Monster Energy Shoei. Russell Bobbitt took the lead just before we ducked into the tight fresh woods for 40 miles of Gusses' personal torture. There were all kinds of logs, on every imaginable angle and height. Everything that was close to the ground had been lovingly disguised in leaves and the rest were angled to take you down like a medieval jousting stick. Russell's time at the front was short as he hit the deck, then Nick Fahringer or I took another shot at leading until we suffered a similar fate and the order was reshuffled. Late in the lap Nick made a break for it and punched out a 30 second lead. I pushed hard and reeled him in and passed him back just before scoring. I led most of the second and final 40 mile lap until I got wedged in a rut exiting a creek crossing. Both Nick and Russell seized the opportunity and speed off as I pulled my bike out. Russell led by about 25 seconds going into the last part of the lap. I had the hammer down and caught Nick just as he dropped it in a turn. I soon could see Russell and reeled him in through the peat bogs. Coming to the final few turns on the MX track before scoring I was close but there was no time to try anything.

Russell had ridden a great race and took a well-deserved win. Ending my OMA win streak at 17. Nick also rode a strong race and completed probably the closest top three in Moose Run history. Our Kiwi friend Adrian Smith placed 4th in the Pro class and enjoyed the event but was staggered by how different the race was.

1st: Russell Bobbitt

2nd: Paul Whibley

3rd: Nick Fahringer

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

The AmPro Yamaha Team is supported by:

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