

**Race Report: OMA Round 3 Arkansas****Rider: Paul Whibley****Team: AmPro Yamaha****Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F****Result: 1st**

A long 13 hour drive to the western corner of Arkansas, where round 3 of the OMA series was staged basically inside the city limits of Fort Smith. Don't let that description fool you though as OMA promoter Bill Gusse still managed to find plenty of mud holes and tight technical woods to throw our way.

I got off to a good start, although so did Russell Bobbitt who lined up beside me and held the inside line into turn one. I got pushed wide and clipped Nick Fahringer as he swept around the outside, going down as my front end got taken out. Remounting in last position with twisted bars and a lot of work to do to catch Russell, who was fast creating a sizable lead.

I managed to push my way up to third by the end of the first lap and could see Nick in second. Nearing the end of the second lap I swept past Nick as we entered a fast grass field. Russell had built a lead of over 30 seconds and was riding good. I kept pushing and slowly the gap closed.

At the fuel stop I caught sight of him as he left the pits. In the next lap Russell had some problems and I caught right up to him and made a pass. He recovered from his issues quickly and we started swapping positions as we battled for the lead. Going into the last lap I held the lead although I hadn't managed to put any time on Russell. The track was cutting up and some deep ruts were forming in some mud holes. Russell picked a bad line and wedged his KTM in one of these deep ruts coming up out of a small creek crossing. I hadn't realized he had dropped so far back until crossing the line for the win.

Assessing the damage from the first turn crash revealed a pretty twisted radiator although the Unabiker radiator braces held it all together so I could finish the race.

1<sup>st</sup>: Paul Whibley2<sup>nd</sup>: Russell Bobbitt3<sup>rd</sup>: Nick Fahringer

Thanks to Mark Kariya for the picture

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 Fastway 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

