



Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 FX

Event: NZXC Rnd 5 (Dead Toad)

Result: 2nd

Race Report

The 5th round of the NZXC series was hosted by the Waitamata Club at Riverhead forest in conjunction with the Dead Toad XC.

Wet conditions leading up to the event had some a little nervous but apart from being slick the track was really rideable.

I got an average start with the FX taking a couple winds to start on the button. I think I entered the bush in 7th. There was roost flying in all directions in the first few k's. Lucky my Oakleys could deal with the smashing they were receiving as I pushed to make passes. By the end of the second lap I was up to 3rd (not that I knew it) behind Sam Greenslade and Liam Draper. Liam had a good start and had used a clear track to set up a sizable lead. On the third lap I passed a bike that had gone down in a slick mud hole. I had a thought that it might have been Sam Greenslade but wasn't sure.

I continued to put in solid laps and not really racing with anyone. The slick conditions made it hard to push on a 450 so careful throttle applications were needed to keep things in line.

After two and a half hours I crossed the line surprised to hear that I placed second. Liam had disappeared out front. It was Sam that I passed in the mud hole. Another front runner that I hadn't seen was Callan May. Apparently Callan and Sam had a good battle late in the race. With 1 point separating those two in the NZXC title chase, it's going to be a winner takes all situation at the final on the 4th of Dec.

1st: Liam Draper

2nd: Paul Whibley

3rd: Sam Greenslade

Thanks to Andy @bikesportnz.com

Paul Whibley is supported by:

YamahaNZ, Arai, TCX, Oakley, G2, Asterisk, MotoSR, Vortex Ignitions, EC3D, Bush Riders MCC, Rosscos Start Up Services, Works Connection, Unabiker, Leatt Brace, Tire Balls, ,Renthal bikesportnz.com, CarbSport, KettleClamp, Alliance Offroad, Ride Eng MotoSeat, FMF, Michelin, Yamalube CV4 GYTR, IMS O'Neal, Rekluse, Workshop graphics

