

STEVE LEIVAN ~ 2014 Race Report(s)

Event(s): Hillbilly Grand Prix - Round 1 Westphalia November 2 & Round 2 Bolivar November 9

Bike: KTM 250 XC

Result(s): 3rd Overall & 2nd Overall

With all of the "regular season" races ending in October and there being a few pleasant weekends free before I head to Texas for some winter seat time, I hit up the first couple local winter races - that both had excellent weather and conditions.

In Westphalia, there was a good Pro turnout and I got off to a good start and quickly took over the lead. I was pretty solid and led for the first hour, until I stopped for gas. At that time, I had to pick the pace up a bit to latch on to Henslee and Smith and in doing so, my left arm got super fatigued. I've been fighting tendonitis for six months or so and this was the most it has bothered me while in a race.

I backed off a little bit, tried to relax, and hoped the strength would return so I could make another push to the front, but it didn't happen. By the end, I was using all my fingers just to pull the clutch in ~ quite frustrating actually. I still managed to hold on to third for the day.

The next weekend I tried again at Lu's Place in Bolivar. I got off to a quick start and led the way on lap one. After Henslee and I bounced off of each other a couple times, he got the better of me in a rocky creek section. His pace was quicker and he gradually put time on me, but I was doing the same thing to the rest of the pack.

After some week-long rehab/stretching, my arm was better and I didn't notice hand fatigue until till the closing stages of the race. I consider that progress. In the end, I was second best this week so that's a step in the right direction.

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