

STEVE LEIVAN
2014 RACE REPORT

EVENT: National Enduro - Round 1 - Salley, SC - March 2

BIKE: KTM 250XC

RESULT: 3rd +40 "A"

EVENT INFO: The "off-season" has finally ended and the season openers are taking place. I was excited to get going in the National Enduro series since South Carolina is one of my favorite events of the year. I was also pumped to find amazing weather and it was great to spend a couple days being warm again. I was on row 34 with my travel partner Zach Ingram and I looked forward to having someone I knew to chase after.

Section one was a lengthy 12.5 miles and it was fairly rough and fairly tight and I rode fairly rough and fairly tight. I really struggled the first half of the section to find a groove and I felt very rigid and stiff. I felt like I pretty much sucked at that point. The next test was nearly as long but had a bit more flow to it. I rode better, but got lost on a road section and gave away some valuable time finding the trail again.

Same situation in test three - felt pretty good but lost the arrows again in a fast section and lost some time. Test four starts out very tight but then it's one of the best sections usually. In the tight stuff, a big limb caught my throttle cable and yanked it out of the housing, sticking the throttle wide open. It was a challenge to get the bike shut down - dislodge the limb - push the cable back in the housing - and get going again. The next row caught up to me by the time I took off. For real?

Matt Stavish was on that row behind me and I was able to latch on to him and we "raced" the rest of the way. It was the best I had ridden so far that day, but I lost a minute in the process. Back at camp, Dad and I got the cable routed properly again and I set out for test five. Get lost in this one? You bet! This one was a big one. I watched a helmet cam video of Drew Higgins doing the same thing - nearly two minutes!

The last section had lots of fresh trail and fast roads - maybe the most fun, but lots of stumps to keep you on your toes. Missed the trail in there twice.

Overall, I was pretty let down with the way the day went. The result was alright, but every section had a portion of it that was a struggle. I had many "good" miles I felt - just not 10 or so

consecutive "good" miles. I hate getting lost and it was super frustrating to have a good section going, then lose it all when there simply weren't enough course markings in the fast stuff to keep us on track.

I know, lots of excuses, but it's how I see it. Physically I feel really good - better than I have been in six or seven years and that has me motivated. I will be looking for a "cleaner" ride at round two in Texas.

Results: 1. Watts (KTM); 2. Pierce (KTM); 3. LEIVAN (KTM)

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