

## ***STEVE LEIVAN ~ 2014 Race Report***

**Event:** Round 10 National Enduro - Matthews, IN - September 14

**Bike:** KTM 250 XC

**Result:** 1st +40 "A" - 1st Overall "A" - Clinched +40 "A" National Championship

This past weekend was the final round of the National Enduro Championship at my favorite stop on the schedule in Matthews Indiana. Amazing conditions (as usual) and perfect temperatures were in store so I was pumped for this race. The fact that my class was still undecided as far as championship points go, made my pre-race bike prep a little more detailed and more time consuming since I didn't want to leave anything to chance.

The first section was 12 miles long and really fun and flowy. There were a few sections where you could hold the throttle all the way to the stop - and I was glad that I had chosen to richen my jetting in those places! I also was glad that I was wearing my Fly Windproof jersey since it was still cool in the morning and the wind was crisp while pinning it across the cornfields. I had a really good section (1st in class and 2nd Overall "A"), met up with Mom and Dad before section two, and changed my brake fluid and switched to a regular jersey.

Test two was some stellar dirt down in some creek bottoms and a rocky ravine at the end of the test. Again - a solid test for me with no issues. The next two sections were not quite as flowy but the amazing dirt more than offset the slight lack of flow. The third section had 413 log crossings and loads of spectators watching whenever you put a wheel wrong. It felt like the longest ever lap of an Endurocross track. I was Overall "A" in test four so that was a highlight for me, but I can not recall anything else about that section, except I think we rode by a pink barn!

Section five started off pretty tight and then opened up some but it was still a little bit hacked up as far as the flow goes. I again set the quickest time of all the "A" riders then met up with my folks to ready myself for the final test of the year. It was a 15 miler - the longest I think we have had at a National since the new format took over. It had a lot of fast stuff and I felt good through most of it. My arms were getting tired though so I was trying to stay relaxed and loose. About three miles from the end, I took my left hand off the bars to shake out the tightness and I swapped and "grazed" a huge stump. It hit my shifter and footpeg, sticking the shifter tip "in" and I couldn't kick it back out. I stopped and popped it back straight (by hand) and I was super lucky that I didn't break or bend the shifter and peg (or both).

I finished the section with no further drama and got a drink from Dad, then headed to the pits. When the scores were posted, I had won my class by claiming the win in all six sections. I also won the Overall "A" by just 17 seconds. I was also 22nd overall. The result helped me clinch the class championship despite having to count a zero in the final tally. We get two drops, but I had to miss an additional race due to obligations with our MORE series. So, I knew the series would come down to the final round for me to have a chance at winning and I was prepared for that. It is great to win another championship and it is a big commitment to make it happen. Being able to ride so well at the final round is icing on the cake.

Thanks to everyone that helps me keep doing what I love to do!

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