

STEVE LEIVAN ~ 2014 Race Report

Event: Round 7 OMA Nationals - Council Bluffs, IA - September 26-27

Bike: KTM 250XC

Result: 4th Pro - 6th Overall

Info: This is one of those races that almost "has it all" (except for elevation) but what sticks in my memory the most, is the abundance of sugar sand. I've been places that have some sections of the super soft stuff, but "The Troll" course seems to be about 50% deep sand that gets rougher and rougher.

On Saturday, I decided to ride the 1 hour "fun" race to get some additional time in the saddle and get comfy in the sand. The first lap I went pretty slow and realized that was a not-good-idea in the sand. I fought the bike a lot so the next lap I clicked up a gear and it was tons better. I put in four laps (and finished second behind Whibley) and then waited for the Sunday course practice session.

There were three new and tighter sections (two of them sand) and an abundance of logs in the Pro/A section that would no doubt get tougher as the course got chewed up.

I started the race in fifth position and did what I could to hang on to the guys in front. Midway through the second lap, Heresco and Bolinger (leaders of the Pro 2 class) caught me and I latched on to them for a few miles. From there I tried to ride as hard as I could so that no one else would catch me. Overall, I felt like I rode the sand as good as I could have and let the bike do the work.

At the end (2:42:xx), I was pretty tired but I was also very happy with my ride, glad I kept the other dozen Pro 2 guys behind me, and pumped to put some cash in my pocket.

Results: 1. Whibley (Yam) 2. Bonnuer (KTM) 3. Thomas (KTM) 4. LEIVAN (KTM) 5. Jarrett (KTM)

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