

STEVE LEIVAN ~ 2014 Race Report

Event: The Off Road Cup - Wyandotte, OK - April 19

Bike: 2013 KTM 250 XC

Result: Team MORE - Steve Leivan ~ Zach Ingram ~ Drew Higgins - OVERALL WINNERS

Event Info: The fourth annual Off Road Cup went off at D Day Adventure Park in Oklahoma on Easter weekend. This is a 9 hour team race with three riders per team. It is truly unique and a super fun time where the normal pressure of racing isn't just on one riders shoulders - all three of the riders get to "share" it.

I've been fortunate to be on the winning team every year and I'm pumped to say that "we" did it again in 2014.

This year, Zach Ingram started off for Team MORE and he went straight to the front despite dealing with immediate clutch issues. He pulled in after a single lap (three was the plan) and Drew Higgins took off. Drew was in a zone and put us back in front early, in his three lap stint before Zach went back out again.

When I took off for my first time, we were 2:20:00 or so into the race and battling closely with the NEPG team of Joiner, Henslee, and Haynes. The gap was only 20 seconds or so when I went out for my three laps. I heard a four-stroke behind me and glanced back to see Joiner not far behind. In a mile or so I didnt hear him anymore, so I just stuck to my pace and tried to learn the track.

Midway through my second lap (the 10th lap of the race) I got the pitboard that Joiners bike had failed and we had a huge lead. From that point, it was a different race and I preached to my teammates that we needed to just be consistent and NOT throw away the race. We were no longer worried about lap times that much - it was more about being smooth and steady.

Things followed the race plan for the remaining hours and no more than a minute and a half separated all of our lap times from the midway point of the 28 lap race, until we took the checkered flag with another ORC victory in hand.

The boys rode awesome and our help in the pits was superb and I felt like we were the best prepared team in the race. Excellent work by all (of us) and we are in the process of building a dynasty with ORC victories.

Results: 1. MORE 2. NEPG 3. OHSCS

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