

STEVE LEIVAN ~ 2015 Race Report

Event: Texas Enduro Circuit/Black Jack Enduro – Scipio, OK – November 7-8

Bike: 2015 KTM 250 XC

Result: 8th Saturday ~ 6th Sunday OVERALL/PRO

We have entered into the great deer hunting season here in Missouri and near as I can tell, that only screws up my dirt bike riding. With no racing available near home this past weekend, I ventured a little bit South to the middle-of-nowhere Oklahoma for a two day Enduro. I guess I wasn't the only one looking for a "bullet-free" area to ride since the turnout seemed really good and the Pro class had 16 entries and was also fairly stacked.

The conditions Saturday were quite good and the trails were pretty fun. I stumbled in the first section while trying to pass a guy but the rest of the section went okay. I wasn't too pumped on the second section since it seemed to be the rockiest of the day and had a lot of squared off corners (hard to keep any flow). Sections three and four were fun with sections of really good dirt and then sections that were pretty rocky. Overall my ride was solid but missing some good lines and a couple little bobbles cost me at least one position.

We got rain during the night so day two was going to be different. Some of the rocky stuff was a bit slicker, but the dirt sections were really good - perhaps better than Saturday. The sections were the same ones that we ran the day before so I was able to pick up on a few lines in the opening section. I was a bit tentative though as I tried to figure out how predictable the traction was. Section two had a lot of little inside lines that didn't seem to be there on day one and I was able to pick up on those and turn in a time almost identical to what I did on day one (even with the rocks being slicker).

Near the very end of that section, I had the left side fork seal let go which dumped oil onto the caliper and brake pads. We didn't have service before the third test so I pretty much just had to deal with it. I overshot maybe 10 turns in that section when I simply couldn't get the bike slowed down quick enough. Somehow I managed to lodge the fifth quickest time though.

I did what I could to clean the oil off of the pads before test four and try to slow down the oil leak. It took probably three miles or so before I had "normal feeling" front brakes and once I built some confidence, then I felt good. I did the same routine at the end of the section and then the brakes stayed pretty consistent the rest of the way. I found out Monday, that all of the oil in the top chamber of the fork was gone.....so....I guess it was a bit of give and take!!

The club gave us some gnarly stuff in section six. There was lots of slow going rocky stuff that

was covered in leaves. If you know me, you know I DO NOT dig riding leaves on top of rocks. At least the trail was pretty slow in there so it wasn't super sketchy. I rode pretty good in there - probably because I knew not to push the limit. My time was again fifth best. The last section was the same as the day before so it was really established by the end and quite fun. I could have been a bit cleaner, but I wasn't too, bad in there.

I improved by a couple of positions from day one, so there was some improvement which is always a good thing. The club did a good job, the conditions were mint, and I had fun. That's why we play the game. I also got to see a lot of people that I hadn't seen in years and it's cool to see us all still involved with dirt bikes.

Thanks for your help!! Steve