

STEVE LEIVAN
2016 RACE REPORT

Event: TORO Rd 5 – Murietta, OK – February 14

Bike: KTM 250 SX

Result: 6th Pro/Overall

This race was a Sprint Enduro and the conditions bordered on the "dry" side of perfect. The sections were pretty fast paced and a bit short. That meant that you had to find your pace right-now and be ready-to-go. As usual, there was plenty of talent on hand as well. My day was solid and steady, but it took me a while to find my pace and find all the good lines. I was better at the end of the day than at the beginning. Fun ride and a productive day in the saddle.

Event: Springfield Endurocross – Springfield, MO – February 19

Bike: KTM 250 SX

Result: 3rd Pro

This years' track was plenty jumpy and it seems that this event is becoming more "Arenacrossy" each year. There was a concrete culvert double that I couldn't convince myself to do, no matter how much I looked at it or thought about it. It just didn't seem to be worth the gamble. I got everything else down in the second practice session and felt good doing so.

My start in the heat race was pathetic and I rode around in eighth place for too long. I finally hit the panic button and found my way into fourth and a transfer into the main. My start was on the outside and I figured I would get pushed out but made it through turn one in fifth position. Then I hit neutral and crashed and got up in dead last (12th).

The first few laps I was in heaps of traffic and couldn't get over the tire jump due to all the congestion. I got through a few guys and finally got a clear track and felt like I could do some work. The race was 15 laps long and by lap 10 I had worked into the top five. Guys were struggling and looked like they had their tongues in the spokes so I kept pushing and ended up on the podium in third. With the way the race started - very pumped with the result.

Event: TORO Round 6 – Callisburg, TX – February 28

Bike: KTM 250 SX

Result: OVERALL WINNER

YES - it feels good to type OVERALL WINNER! Another Sprint race, but this time longer sections and real

single track that got rutty and soft. I tried to attack right from the start since that is usually my weakness. I felt good right away and didn't get tight....which was nice for a change. I ended up winning the first section and that inspired me to charge in section two, which I also won.

I was pretty good the next few sections, winning a couple more and never really giving away a bunch of time when I didn't win. With two tests to go I started thinking about it too much and thought I was going to throw it away, but I got some good coaching and collected my thoughts and made it happen in the last test.

Winning overalls is never "easy" and with time, it gets tougher. Days like this are special and I appreciate them very much.

I ended the TORO season in 4th place in the Pro class against the kids. Big thanks to my sister for all of the support, housing, feeding, entry fees, and comic relief!

A few other shouts:

My nephew CJ Pratt rode the last few TORO rounds, moving up to a 65 and having to deal with a clutch. He is having a good time, spinning lots of laps, and making big improvements.

His big bro Colton finished out the TORO season in great form and has really stepped it up since moving up to a big bike. He ended up winning the Lites C class in TORO with amazing consistency at the end of the season. Up next for him - NEPG! Rule number one - don't pass me!

My travel partner this winter - Megan McGowan - is turning into a riding/racing machine. She won the Ladies "A" and Ladies Overall in TORO (to go along with her domination in MORE this past year) and even jumped right into the Endurocross (okay maybe she fell into it!). She has made heaps of progress these last few months.....and now with an orange bike, it's "game on". She is ready to try the NEPG too (see above rule number one).

Thanks for the support! Steve