

Race:AMA National Hare Scrambles  
Location: Cortland, NY  
Date:Sept. 9, 2007

When we arrived at the track on Saturday, the weather was beautiful and after walking most of the track, it looked as though it was going to be another dust race. But later that Saturday night things would change. At about 8:00pm that night the skies opened up and it started downpouring and wouldn't stop until we left the track on Sunday after the race.

The track really took a turn for the worse and when we arrived, we could barely get parked because the nice green field we parked on the day before had turned into a swamp! The rain would come and go for the rest of the day and sometimes it would look to clear and the sun would come out, but just as we started to put away the umbrellas, here would come another storm and it would start raining again. And I am not talking a rain like my homestate of Washington. This was an east coast thunder shower and it would rain so hard you could barely see through it because it was coming down so hard. Needless to say, it was putting some rain down. The continued rain had transformed the track into a mudfest and I knew it was going to be a tough day.

My WR450F light up quick off the line and I was into the first turn in 2nd. I would stay in second the first three miles before moving into the lead when the leader got sideways in a rut. I just tried to be smooth and not make mistakes and the track wasn't too bad, I was having fun and slinging mud, the ruts weren't deep and I was able to flow and stand up. At the end of the 13 mile lap I had opened up a 30 second lead!

As we dipped into the woods to start the second lap, the track wasn't so fun anymore! After all the bikes from the other classes that started behind us had passed through the trail, it had really done a number on the track. I kept pushing and maintained my lead until about halfway through the lap. I was struggling a bit in the ruts this time around because they were too deep to stand up in and the trails were too tight to get out of them. So you would just get in a rut and then get out of it maybe 2 miles later and I have trouble riding ruts like that, when you have to sit down and put your feet out like rudders. As I was going through one section, I reached up to pull my roll-offs and my bars clipped a tree and I when they did, my bars were ripped out of my hands and I had a good crash. When I re-mounted I was still in the lead and Williamson was right behind. I lead the rest of

the lap and when we stopped for fuel Williamson got around me while I was fueling.

Starting the 3rd lap, I tried to catch back up, but I had a good crash at the beginning of the lap that would be followed by about 7 more throughout the lap. And not just little tip-overs. I had some big get-offs that lap! It was just a snowball effect for me. I was trying to make up time and reel in the leader and when I fell the first time, I got excited and knew I needed to push even harder to catch him. And again and again. Everytime I would push, I would crash. It was a muddy enough race that you just needed to maintain a good pace and not make mistakes, because it was tough to make up time and push in the conditions. So that lap pretty much was it for me. After my last big crash (I was going through the trees in 4th gear and clipped a tree with the bars which resulted in me cartwheeling through woods) I knew I couldn't keep doing it because at that rae I wasn't even going to finish! So I settled down and backed it down a bit to a more controlled pace.

The next two laps I just maintained a good, smooth pace and it was way easier on the bike and body. I didn't gain much time on Williamson (He hauls in the mud) but I was able to get a decent fininsh out of it and crossed the finish line in 2nd place. I was happy with my finish and was glad I didn't throw the whole race away like I was on my way to doing on the 3rd lap. It was a super mudder and was tough, but that is the way it goes sometimes. It was my first mud rvace on the 450 and it woked very good with no problems at all. The bike worked great and I learned a lot about riding it in those conditions, hopefully the next mud race I will be stronger on it and go for the victory.

## **RESULTS**

- 1- Justin Williamson
- 2- **Jason Raines**
- 3- Robbie Jenks

Thank you for all your support, we are on the road right now to Unadilla, NY for the GNCC this weekend and I will have another race report ready by the beginning of next week. I have plenty of time to do it with our 16 hour drive! Talk to you soon!

*Jason Raines*

[www.jasonrainesfullcircletraining.com](http://www.jasonrainesfullcircletraining.com)

Team Am-Pro Yamaha

864-979-6973

jason\_raines@msn.com