

# Upah Racing

## Race Report

By Adam Upah



PRO ARMOR



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### GNCC Rd. #11: Yadkin Valley Stomp Yadkinville, NC Sept 26, 2009 Result: 10th of 16, Junior A (22+); 62nd of 140 Overall



After racing the previous two weekends in New York and Iowa, I was feeling fairly confident in my physical conditioning heading into round 11 of the GNCC series in Yadkinville, NC. I was excited to return to North Carolina, where my season originally began with round 3 at Steele Creek in late March. Watching the weather forecast there closely all week, I knew chances were good that this was going to be a wet and muddy race. The forecast called for a 100% chance of rain on race day, and there was a light mist/drizzle all morning which became increasingly heavier as the day went on.

I knew track conditions would be less than ideal, but they were actually better than I expected. On the starting line I was able to get a great jump off the line and entered the woods in 2nd place, my best start all season. For the first 4 miles or so I held on to that #2 position, but as the rain came down my goggles began to fog up. I really didn't want to take them off with all of the mud flying but after clipping two separate trees, neither of which I ever saw, and losing 10 positions, I pulled off the goggles and was able to ride much better with unimpaired vision. After lap 1 I had fallen back to 12th place, but it was still a tight race as I was still within one minute of 2nd place. At this point I just tried to focus on riding smart, picking good lines and not making any mistakes.



During lap 2 I was still fighting with traffic from my class and other A class racers. As I started lap 3, still in 12th place, some space between riders had developed and I was able to get in a groove and ride at a good pace without feeling too much pressure. I managed to shave 17 seconds off on that lap over my previous two laps and picked up 3 positions, starting the final lap in 9th place. I really pushed as hard as I could on that final lap and was having a blast. The course fit my riding style much better than others, with most of the track consisting of tight woods. I managed to improve my lap time by another 20 seconds on that last lap, catching up to 8th place, but lost one position when I came up behind a rider that had stalled his machine; another racer cut part of the track to go around with only a half mile to go in the race, dropping me to 10th place, but only 3 seconds behind 8th place. Overall I finished 62nd out of 140 racers. This was my season best finish so far, both in class and overall.

The track was probably my favorite so far this year. The red clay actually held up really well despite the wet conditions, it just became very slippery in some areas. The greatest highlight of the course was the big creek jump, which I was initially a little nervous about but was very glad that I hit it each lap! Next up in just one week is the Powerline Park GNCC in St. Clairsville, OH. I'm very excited for a race that's a little closer to home!

As always, a big thank you goes out to all of my sponsors, to whom I attribute much of my success!!