



Upah Racing

2011 *Race Report*

By Adam Upah



4th Annual GBC Heartland Challenge, 10 Hour Team Endurance Race

Carlisle, IA – August 20, 2011

Results: Pro-Am Class Champions!!

4th Place Overall!!



Highlights:



After winning the Industry class in 2010 with our Dad (Al), Luke and I decided that we wanted to see how well we could do at this event. So, several months ago we decided we would step up to the Pro-Am class this year. At first we thought we might attempt to complete the ten hour event with a team of two, but as the event date neared we decided a third teammate might be helpful. Not only would it give us an extra rider to absorb some of the fatigue but also an extra quad to race on. So, we invited OMA Nationals veteran racer (and coworker of mine) Rob Zimmerman to join our team, turning Upah Racing into "Upah Racing + Zim" - our team name for this event.



Some rain on Thursday night made for perfect track conditions on Saturday. We walked the course on Friday and it looked very open, fast, and fun with all the elevation change that the course had to offer. The optional "Challenge" shortcut through a technical series of rocks, logs and tires was changed slightly from previous years but still appeared very manageable.



The skies were clear and sunny on Saturday for the 2:00 PM LeMans style start. We decided that as Luke was our strongest rider, he would lead us off. The initial plan was to have Luke run about 4 hours of the race and Rob and I would each run 3, with each of us running about 1.5 hour legs.



Off the start, Luke punched the throttle a little too quickly and killed the engine, which set him back to about 15th to 20th place overall heading into the woods.





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He quickly made up for lost time however, and was only 20 seconds behind 2nd place in class after one lap. He continued to push forward and moved into 2nd place after 3 laps, only 12 seconds behind 1st. On lap 5 he took the lead just before handing the quad off to Rob Zimmerman. During the rider change, we lost the lead position but Rob quickly gained it back by the end of lap 6. By the end of his 5 laps, Rob had built up a 3 minute lead over 2nd place before passing the quad off to me for my turn. During my 5 lap ride over the next hour and a half, the 3rd place team turned up the pace and began gaining on us as they moved into 2nd place. After 15 laps though we still had a 2:42 lead over 2nd place.

In order to switch quads, you must enter an impound area, which costs anywhere from 30 seconds to a minute. Initially we had planned on each only riding our own quads, but early in the race we decided that we could save a lot of time if Luke and I just switched back and forth on my quad for a while. So, on lap 16 Luke jumped on my quad and put down our team's fastest laps of the day, building our lead up to 9 and half minutes after 20 laps and 6 hours of racing.

As I headed back out on the course around 8:00 PM, the sun was setting and it wasn't long before I flipped on my headlights and my Baja Designs Strykr Helmet Light. The Strykr was great for the woods because it provided a substantial amount of light wherever I needed it, not just where the quad was pointing. On my third lap out my goggles began to fog just as my leg muscles were beginning to cramp up, so I made a quick pit stop and headed back out for one more lap. Soon thereafter I could hear that my swingarm skid plate was loose and hitting my chain, so I pulled off the track to check out the problem – again the Strykr light was very helpful here. Only one of four bolts was still holding the skidplate on, which I managed to break off and finish out the lap.

Since my quad was missing its skidplate, Luke switched back to his quad for his final ride of the day. When he took off we had about a 9 minute lead and when he passed the quad back to Rob after 3 laps, we were up by 11 and a half minutes over second place. Rob knew this when he went back out to finish the race and cruised 4 laps to the checkered flag. After 31 laps and 10 hours of racing, “Upah Racing +Zim” won the Pro-Am class by a margin of 9 minutes and 20 seconds!

Thanks especially to **Fox Racing Shox, Baja Designs, IMS, and DP Brakes** for their additional support for this race! We also owe a lot of thanks to our father, **Al Upah**, for all of the help and support in the pits throughout the race!



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Rob

Luke



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Rob



Luke



Luke