

Willow Springs

April 18, 2008

Jared Mees

Hello everyone it has been a long time since I got to do a race report, so I may be a little rusty. I just got back from Willow Springs CA this was a Eddie Mulder race. Usually the Willow Springs race is his season final but this year it is going to be the Season final and also the Series Opener. We were supposed to be racing the weekend before in Tucson Az so Eddie tried to make it convenient for all of us so alot more pros could make the trip more worth while. Anyway, he had a open practice the day before the actual race on Saturday. I figured since I haven't road a dirt tracker at all this year, I better take advantage of this. I was riding Tony Dodge's XR 750. I rode this bike quiet a bit before, and liked it a lot, so I new I was getting on a great bike.

Nichole and I got in on Friday. Gene and Gail Cummings, two great friends of ours, picked Nichole and I up from the airport. We headed up to Willow Springs Saturday morning. As we were on our way up, we went thru the mountains, and thought I was going to lose my breakfast. I had to pull over and take a breather, ha ha. Must have been the turning back and forth, and up down and down motion or something.

Anyway I got some great laps in on Saturday and the bike was pretty much dialed in from the get go. I made some lever and bar adjustments when I first got there, but nothing big at all. It felt great twisting the throttle again, and doing it on the a big twin in some cushion was heaven. My knee felt great and it was a good day. Sunday was the race day and the bike came back looking brand new again. Tony went home and pimped this thing right out. I felt bad getting on it with dirty boots. Practice went smooth and we were ready. I put a brand new Maxxis tire on the rear for the Heat race and grooved it all up, and was ready. I was in the first heat race, and I grabbed the hole-shot and checked out. The bike was doing everything I wanted it to do.

They had a dash for cash and they were taking two out of the heat race to the dash. The dash looked to be like a warm up to what the main event was going to be. Kopp, Murray, Russel, Halbert, Cheza, Cose, and Stout all ready to pull the trigger. I grabbed the hole shot and was running good, but there was a red flag. Murray must have gotten some arm pump or something because he was up at the hay bails, on his side. It looked to me like, he just slipped up in the loose dry stuff and had no place to go. He was back up and he just had some bent bars. So the 2nd restart Kopp got me off the line. I was running pretty hard and didn't think I was going to be able to get around him. With 5 laps there isn't much you can do. But he made a little mistake and it allowed me to get underneath him in turns 3 and 4 and I went on to win the dash. So I had that one done, and one to go. We went back to put a new tire on, cut it up, and filled the bike up with gas and was ready to rock n roll. It was a 20 lap race so I was pumped with that. Joe Kopp was on the pole with Murray, myself, and Halbert. Joe and I came off the line dead even and I was able to leave it pinned a little longer and carry more momentum through the corner, because I was higher up on the race track. I came out in the lead and put in some really hard laps. The track was good and wet and smooth for the first 5 laps. So I new that I had to get away then, when the track dries out it seems we stay more even because the track slows down quite a bit. At about half way I was getting into some lap traffic, and just made my way threw them, and came out on top. I had a great time and it felt good to start my season with a win.

There was good competition there so that was a plus, anytime you can race competitively with Joe Kopp your doing good. Tony Dodge put a great bike underneath me, and Jim Kelly had alot to do with the motor, so it was a good horse and a great ride. I really want to thank Eddie and Jodi Mulder for the great race track and also all his sponsors and riders for putting up the extra dash for cash money. It started with \$300.00 and went to \$2000.00 in about 5 minutes, so that was pretty cool to see that. The gas price's keep going up and it gets tougher and tougher to go racing every year so that was a nice bonus for us.

Anyways, once again I had a great time, the knee feels great, and ready to do battle for the season. I have been working hard and can't wait till Springfield. In the mean time, I am going to Ashboro North Carolina on April 26th, then to Sedalia Mo on May 10th, then off to another Eddie Mulder race in Tulare CA May 17th. Hope to see you come on out, and thanks again to everyone.

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