

**May 19, 2010**

I've been busy over the last month, with the opening two rounds of the national championship series in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, and our local state series two day event at San Ysidro, NM. After returning from the first two rounds of the national series in Oklahoma where I placed First both days in the 125cc expert class on my Gas Gas Race 125, I arrived at our two day event at San Ysidro feeling confident with my riding and hoping for similar results that weekend. We arrived on Friday, and I was excited when the clouds rolled in and it started to rain. With the upcoming nationals in Rhode Island and New York I was anxious to practice in some wet and slippery conditions to prep myself for the terrain I will see in the East. It rained/hailed on and off all day and I had a fun day of practice in the temporarily flowing creeks and rock pools. After a fun day of rain practice, I woke up on Saturday morning expecting the same conditions for the weekend, but it ended up being sunny for the remainder of the weekend. Saturday's Champ Class had sections that were fairly easy while still being technical, so the scores were pretty low for the day. I managed to put together a "clean" first loop, but couldn't continue the pattern, and I had a one point second loop and a three point third loop for a total of four points for the day. I edged out the second place score of 9 and the third place score of 50 for a first place finish for the day. On the second day, the sections were tougher and more technical, and I put together a score of 14 points for the day, garnering a win over the second place score of 38 and the third place score of 82. It was a successful weekend for me, and I was happy with my results, which put me with all wins for the state series this year so far five events into the series. With under a month until the next national in Rhode Island, I am practicing as much as I can each week to prepare.

Nathan Hassler