

Ballance Race Report from Millfield Oakland, KY (6/4/2011)

As morning came for round 9 at the John Penton GNCC, the Ballance Racing crew found themselves getting ready for a race that they are not usually getting ready for and that was the youth race. "We had brought our project raptor 125 along for Corey Silverthorn to ride in case the guys at MXP couldn't get his race quad ready to go, but they were able to get him going. Cody Collier, who has been riding the Raptor 125 all year, was having some problem and wasn't able to get it fixed before the race, so we decided to let him ride it. It kinda got me thinking about letting different kids give it a try at the next few rounds to help us get feedback to the areas we have already improved and areas that could use some improvement. We might have some budget to do something with a youth program next year for which we are really excited about and has really lit our fire to making the Raptor 125 the ultimate race machine for the youth riders" stated team manager Bill Ballance.

Cody was able to take the Ballance Racing project Raptor 125 to his first overall win. "It was really cool of the Ballance team to let me ride their Raptor. It was awesome!" said Cody Collier.

With a great start to the day, everyone was pumped to get on the line of the evening race. As the green flag went up for the XC1 Class, Taylor Kiser's YFZ450X fired up fast and the MXP motor rocketed him to the first corner to grab the hole shot, but unfortunately a bad line choice on the first lap moved him back to around 9th place. Determined to get back to the front, he was able to make a push back to the front and along with a good pit stop he was able to take the lead position heading into the last lap. "I was able to get the holeshot but just couldn't stay focused on the first lap. I took a bad line and ended up getting stuck, but after that I got it together and was able to push back to the front. Chris and Brian found a creative line on that last lap to get back in front of me and when we hit the motocross track coming to the finish I was able to real Brian back in. He left me just enough room on the inside coming through the double section right before the finish to get by. There have been a couple rough races this season, so to get back on the podium with a second place finish was a big step in the right direction going into the break. We'll just go work hard over the break and come back out with something to prove" stated Taylor Kiser.

When the XC2 class flag went up, Walker Fowler's YFZ450X just didn't fire up as fast as need and nearly got involved in a collision with the #12 of Gabe Phillips who had crashed in the second corner. Fortunately was able to work his way into the lead by the 9 mile marker. "It was a pretty crazy first lap but I was able to get into the lead before the end of the first lap and things were going great. Unfortunately on the third lap I didn't see a stump and when I hit it, I was thrown from my machine. If it hadn't been for Jeff Pickens stopping to help me get my quad back on the trail there is no telling how long I would have been there, so a big thanks to him. After that I just wanted to get it to the finish, so to get the win was awesome feeling" said Walker Fowler.

Heading into the summer break, the Ballance crew will be getting themselves and their machines ready for a strong comeback to the second half to the season.

We would like to thank our sponsors for 2011

Ballance Racing, Yamaha, Maxxis, Ohlins, FMF, Hiper Wheels, GYTR, JB Racing, Dragon Fuels, Vortex Ignitions, Moto Xperts, Wiseco, Pro Armor, Pro Taper, G4 graphics, Fly racing, Scott Goggles, Cycra, IMS, Tire Balls, Works Connection, Yamalube, Precision Racing Products, DP Brakes, Outerwears, Anti Gravity Batteries