



2011 Mid season race report Jacob Williams #247



2011 Kicked off with the first round of the Victorian Junior titles running a new split round format, where half of the classes will race on the Saturday and the other half on the Sunday, they then alternate for the next round, so those who raced on the Saturday will race Sunday and so on.

Round 1 was held at Cobram with Jacob racing Sunday in the BW 85 A grade, there was no track prep from Saturday's racing and the track was over watered, to say the least it was a swamp! Jacob struggled in race one off the line, and had to fight through the pack to finish 11th, he then regrouped and race 2 seen Jacob at the pointy end, until he was hit off the track by another rider, by the time he picked himself up and got going, he was once again near the rear of the field and having to fight back to 13th. Race 3 was much the same as 2, Jacob started well and was taken out yet again by the same rider who took him out in moto 2, it was starting to look very deliberate, but not much we could do as the weekends racing was over, with Jacob sitting in 14th overall, it wasn't the start we were hoping for, and we now had our work cut out for us to try and finish the series in the top 5.

Round 2 was one we were looking forward too, as it was at our home track Horsham, we were keen to make up lost ground from round one, Jacob worked the track well in practice and found some great lines, race one, unfortunately he didn't get the start he wanted and fought through the pack to finish in about 8th, race two found Jacob in a 1st corner pile up with about 10 other bikes, 3 of them rode over the top of him, he got up sore and with the peak of his Sixsixone helmet hanging half across his eyes, he still rode hard and fast and managed 15th, with his shoulder, elbow and chest bruised and sore, Jacob showed true courage and went out in the last to finish a strong 5th Place, this gave Jacob 8th overall for the weekend.

After a turbulent round 2 Jacob now sits in 10th place, just 13 points out of the top 5. He hit the training hard, with lots of sand riding in preparation for round 3 at Rosebud.

Round 3 we were prepped and ready to take on the deep black south-eastern sand, with the extreme cold and being at sea level, all the preparation we had made to the bike went out the window, our jetting was way out, and with a short sprint of only 3 laps of practice, we had to go with our gut and change the jetting to where we thought it would run and close to what others were running, it wasn't to be, not only did the bike not perform, but also Jacob had a couple of crashes in race one, and only managed 14th, Jacob took this pretty hard, as we had our newest sponsor James from First Auto Parts & his son Jimmy helping out in the pit.

Race 2 and the KTM sx 85 screamed off the line, Jacob and the bike appeared to be running well, three corners into the race, Jacob seemed to be losing ground, I assumed our jetting problems were still with us, he finished a strong 11th place despite having low power, on inspection of the bike, and a briefing with Jacob, we found the clutch was on its way out, I had some clean 2nd hand steels in our spares kit, and hoped it would get us through the last race of the day, it was by a miracle that the clutch did last, the smell alone told me that, as Jacob belted past on the last lap to finish 10th in moto 3.

Despite another up and down round, Jacob now sits in 8th position in the championship, with the fourth and final round at Albury in July end.

Time for a break from the motox seen, and up to the desert for the 2011 Hattah desert race, 2010 was Jacobs introduction to the Hattah and he is hooked, Friday night sign on and scrutineering, with compulsory show and shine in George street Mildura, gave us plenty of time to catch up with some old friends before heading to Hattah early Saturday morning. This year the junior loop was underwater, so we were to race half of the senior loop, the 15 km whooped out sandy fast tight cornered hilly course was just what Jacob needed to wash the taste of the state rounds out of his mouth, in fact, against 250s, 125s and all of his 85/150 competitors, the pint sized Jacob went out and did a 10.55 first lap, compared to the fastest 250 with a 12.30, he had established about a 2 plus min lead on the nearest rival in his class, he had passed all but one of the 125s and was chopping away at a big part of the 250 field, as Jacob come to the end of lap 2, our first fuelling lap, he entered the yellow no pass zone and was waved around by a 250 rider, the clerk of course pulled Jacob over and inflicted a 2 min stop penalty on him, when Jacob explained the rider pulled over and waved him passed, the official merely said " Oh well ive stopped you now" and held Jacob for close to 4 minutes, after refuelling Jacob left with a tear in his eye, all his hard work taken, he soon got back on the gas, unfortunately he had a big crash on lap 3 and lost his kick-start, he waited till onlookers helped him push start it, but it cost him, with a 20 min lap.

Jacob showed me he was built of nothing but heart and true champion quality's, despite everything turning south on him, he still fought on for nearly 2.5 hours to finish in 5th place in his class, I was so proud of my little warrior of the desert, he never gave up and told me afterwards " Oh well dad, I went out there to beat myself, and I won", with that spirit and attitude, I have no doubt next year he will own the Hattah desert race.

One more enduro on the calendar for 2011 is the Nhill pony express, following the Hattah we head to Western Victoria each year to compete in this event, Jacob has won with a different partner for the last four years, he uses this event to help kids that are just starting to race, Jacob goes out and does the fast laps, which enables his partner to relax and keep it upright, this year was no exception, with another first place to his team.

We are currently preparing for the last state round at Albury at the end of the month, we are confident we can make up ground on the 8th place that Jacob is in, and hopefully still finish in the top five, once we see the end of the state titles, we can set

our sights on the Nationals at Murray Bridge SA in October, we hope to have a new KTM sx 85 in time for Nats, we will then introduce Jacob to the KTM sx 125/150 by the end of the year, readying him for next year to race the two classes.

I would like to thank all of our loyal friends/ sponsors; your support of our family team is one of great asset.

I would also like to thank and introduce our new friends and Sponsors:

First Auto Parts <http://www.firstautoparts.com.au/Home/Home.asp> .

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Thank you

Merv Williams

Williams Full Tilt Racing

