

# Lake Odessa I-96 Matt Weidman Race Report

It was kind of a rollercoaster day at I96 Speedway last Saturday. I rode "big black", my clay- XR750 and we had just got it back from Kenny Tolbert who did a rebuild for me, so I was excited to try it. I qualified 4th and the bike felt great in the first round, there was still some moisture in the track. I went out and qualified 22nd and 19th which put me on the 2nd row for the heat. The track was dry slick and was getting faster each round that went out and laid down rubber. It had a tiny groove wide enough for one bike and made it almost impossible to pass. I knew a good start was critical in the heat and I was 4th going into turn one from the 2nd row! I ended up 4th and went right into the main. The feature was a bit crazy, John Lewis crashed right in front of Wiles and me, Wiles clipped him and I scraped the front wall trying to miss them. Someone spilled oil all over the groove and we waited for a while for track prep. I had an awesome start from the 2nd row on the 2nd start and was 5th coming off turn two. About two laps in, I started hearing a noise in the motor and felt it slow down. I went back to about 11th place and was feeling discouraged. We had another restart after Smith crashed and I got another decent start and was running 9th behind Wiles and Lewis again. Me and Wiles tried everything to pass, but it was a one line freight train around the track. On the last lap, I timed it perfect off of turn 4 and beat Wiles to the turn to pass into 8th. I was happy with the finish, knowing the bike was broken and I felt I rode better as the night went on and I got good starts all day. I lucked out and broke just the countershaft and it didn't break off and ruin everything! It has been kind of a tough year with bikes, I am hoping for better luck the rest of the season!

*Thanks again to all my great sponsors, White's HD has really stepped up to help me this year and I appreciate everyone's help. I am currently 9th in Twins points and 11th overall and hope to keep climbing.*