



Paul Holmes claims 2nd place in the 2011 European Quad-X Championship

HOLMES Racing's Paul Holmes rode strong at the final 2 rounds of the Goldspeed European Quad Championship taking 2 wins, one 2nd and a 5th place to finish in the runner-up place in the overall 2011 Championship.

Round 7, Slagelse, Denmark (4 / 09 / 2011)

The deep sand based Danish circuit welcomed the sunshine all Saturday for the 2 free practice sessions and the 30 minute Qualification session. Holmes worked through the day to get the best possible setting and tested different set-ups to keep up with the demanding track. Holmes eventually posted the 2nd fastest time in the Qualification session giving him a great gate choice for Sunday's races.

Race 1: Rounding the first corner in 3rd place, Holmes moved quickly into 2nd place before the end of the opening lap and then began to put the pressure on race leader Montalbini. After applying several laps of pressure trying to take the race lead, Holmes finally made the pass stick and took over 1st place and continued his form until the chequered flag taking his 3rd straight win in this year's Championship; the most wins in a row from any rider in this year's Championship.



Photos by: Francesca Cesari

Race 2: Despite hoping to keep up the winning momentum, Holmes had an unfortunate start and was in 7th place on the opening lap. He found some great lines in the treacherous sands to make passes up to 2nd place, and despite being able to set the fastest lap of the race, and close in early race leader Couprie, the Chequered flag dropped and Holmes had to settle for 2nd place.

With a 1st and 2nd place, Holmes claimed runner up spot on the podium, joint on points with series points leader Couprie.

Round 8, The Final, Rudderberg, Germany (11 / 09 / 2011)

The grand finale of the 2011 Goldspeed European Championship was held this past weekend at the superb Rudersberg circuit in Germany. The spectacular hardpack track was perfectly prepared and thousands of spectators filled the hillside venue. With very hot weather conditions all weekend it was Holmes who showed immense speed in Qualification by setting the fastest lap of the session by almost a full second from local rider Schreiber.

Race 1: After an intense fight for the lead in the opening few corners Holmes was in 2nd place. Holmes stayed in 2nd place and despite riding cautiously on the slippery track slid to the outside of the track and beached himself totally stuck in deep mud which was moved to prepare the track while the entire pack got past. Remounting in last place, Holmes showed incredible speed and determination as the Championship was on the line, dicing through the pack all the way up to 5th place at the chequered flag.



Photos by: Francesca Cesari

Race 2: With another great start Holmes took the holeshot and didn't waste time pulling out a lead over the pack. 5 laps into the race Holmes had settled into a comfortable pace but Race 1 winner Schreiber was closing in. Despite losing the lead to Schreiber, Holmes didn't give in and showed his fitness by re-gaining the lead just 3 laps later. Holmes pushed all the way to the Chequered flag taking another win matching the most amount of wins made by any rider in the Championship.



Photos by: Francesca Cesari



With a 5th and a 1st place, Holmes took 3rd place on the overall podium, and it was his 5th overall podium from the last 5 rounds. During Holmes's impressive 2nd half of the Championship, he scored the most points and, Holmes closed in on the Championship to finish 2nd by just 12 points from Frenchman Couprie.

Holmes commented after the weekends racing action; *I'm really pleased with my performance this weekend and thrilled with the overall place in this year's Championship. It is tough to be so close to winning and having to settle for 2nd place but it is still a great achievement. I am pleased with how I rode these past 2 weekends and taking the final race of the year is a great way to finish on a high. It really helps me take momentum into the remaining races this season and get ready for the tough training months of winter. I had to work really hard this weekend as the competition was fierce. Once again I'd like to say huge thanks to all my amazing sponsors and supporters because without them these results wouldn't be possible.*



Photos by: Francesca Cesari

2011 Overall Championship points

1st – Romain Couprie	317 points
2nd – Paul Holmes	305
3rd – Nicola Montalbini	235
4th – Stefan Schreiber	207
5th – Mattio Tarroco	191
6th – Andrea Cesari jr	130
7th – Jan Vlaeymans	129

Holmes now has one week off before he travels to the Annual Quad-X of Nations in Germany. Holmes has been selected to race for team Great Britain alongside two other British riders who will need to work together to try and bring the prestigious title home.

