



Paul Holmes takes 4th overall at Round 1 of Goldspeed European Championship

The opening Round of the Goldspeed European Quad Championship was held this past weekend in the Dutch town of Oss. A deep sand based circuit with a very technical layout proved an excellent venue for the season opener and treat the spectators to some very exciting racing.

With a new Yamaha Quad for 2011 and a challenging circuit the weekend was going to be tough so having a good set-up was critical. The Holmes Racing team worked hard between practice sessions enabling Paul to take 5th place in his Qualifying group giving him an outside gate choice for Sunday's racing.



Francesca Cesari
Photo Credits: Francesca Cesari

Race 1 was difficult from the gate drop as the strong field of riders battled into the first corner with Holmes exiting in 7th place. Before the first lap was over, Holmes had made some great manoeuvres and moved into 5th place. On lap 2 Holmes had already moved up to 4th place where he settled into a strong pace closely following the lead pack. Whilst battling, and at the same time trying to maintain smooth consistent laps to make sure he was strong for the full 30mins + 2 lap race, Holmes was caught up in a multi quad pile up on lap 11 in a very tight section of the track and dropped to 8th place. With only 4 laps remaining Holmes caught the pack in front of him but hadn't enough time to make any passes and at the chequered flag had to settle for 8th place.

Race 2 had another tough start as the track had been really cut up with deep ruts everywhere. Passing was difficult and rounding the first corner in 8th Holmes had his work cut out. He soon started to move up the scoring sheet and at the mid point of the race was in 6th place. With 3 laps to go he made the move for 5th before putting another rider behind him with just 2 laps to go. Holmes crossed the line in a very respectable 4th place and took home with him some very strong points towards his championship campaign.



Photo Credits: Rien Sidecarcross

Holmes commented after the weekend's action: *This weekend has really been difficult and I couldn't have managed it without my team and my great sponsors. I'm riding a new quad this year and I've never raced here in Oss before so I knew it would be a challenging weekend but we worked hard to get a good set-up and taking home 4th overall is an excellent start to the Championship. Both races have been made longer this season, they're now 30mins + 2 laps, so fitness is really important. I felt strong throughout both the races and actually made a lot of passing towards the end of race 2 so I'm really happy with where I am with my fitness.*

There are so many people I need to thank but I want to give a special shout out to PEP for giving me an incredible amount of help to perfect the set-up and suspension of my quads; Goldspeed Tires who hooked me up with some excellent new sand tires and were on hand to give superb technical assistance between sessions, and my trainers Ray and Bruce who have been working with me through the off season to get me to where I am now.

Round 1 overall results;

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|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1st – Jan Vlaeymans | 47 points |
| 2nd – Romain Couprie | 37 |
| 3rd – Mike van Grinsven | 35 |
| 4th – Paul Holmes..... | 31 |
| 5th – Nikky Vaes | 31 |
| 6th – Jason McBeth | 28 |
| 7th – Davy De Cuyper | 28 |
| 8th – Paul Winrow | 28 |
| 9th – Jeremie Warnia | 25 |
| 10th – Mark Watson | 20 |



Photo Credits: Rien Sidecarcross

Holmes Racing would like to take this opportunity to thank

GR Electrical Services PEP Suspension, Goldspeed Tires, SHIFT Racing, DWT, Laegers, HINSON, DP Brakes, Twin Air, Kutvek Kit Graphik, Motion Pro, RNR, ATVs Only, AXP, BORN, Quad Tech, Renthal, TPSL, Gaerne, Muk Junkie, Pulse Beats and Lonestar Racing **for their continued support and also thank and welcome to the team new sponsors** DOMA Exhausts, Drag'on Distribution ATV NRG, Drag'on Tek, MOTUL, ATV World, Action Cameras, GoPro, SAMCO hoses, Racebikebitz, Pro Armour, Tire Balls, Leatt, USWE and Elkay Sports.

