



## Paul Holmes has great start at European Championship Opener

HOLMES Racing's Paul Holmes makes a great start to the 2012 MAXXIS EUROPEAN Quad Championship with a 4th overall at round 1 in Oldebroek, Holland.

### Round 1, Oldebroek, Holland (07 - 09/04/12)

The weather played a huge factor in the weekend's action with the deep sand track of Oldebroek taking a lot of rain all weekend which made bike set-up key to good results. Heading into the Qualifying session the track was in a bad state after all the mixed groups of practice. Despite his efforts trying to put together a clean lap, Paul posted the 7th fastest time giving him 7th gate choice for Monday's racing.



*Images by Frank Sanders*



**Race 1:** With the rain poring down heavily, Paul made a crucial good start, rounding the 1st corner in 5th place, quickly making that 4th place at the end of the next straight. Half way around the opening lap Paul made the move on the 2nd fastest qualifier and local rider Mike Van Grinsven to take over 3rd place. Paul kept in touch with early race leaders Warnia and Couprie until the mid point of the race and with arm pump getting the better of him eased off the pace and started riding conservatively until he finished the race in a solid 4th place.

**Race 2:** Unfortunately not getting as good start as race 1, Paul was in the middle of the packed 30 line up round the 1st corner, squeezing round in around 14th place which didn't last long as he got tangled with German rider Schreiber coming through the pack. They were both down in 17th and 18th when they got free from each other. Making almost 1 pass per lap, Paul carved his way through the pack to 9th place at the half way marker of the race. Paul made 2 more crucial passes before the race was over crossing the line after 37 minutes of hard work in 7th place.



Images by Frank Sanders

### Round 1 overall results

1st - Jeremie Warnia	47 points
2nd - Romain Couprie	47
3rd - Mike van Grinsven	40
<b>4th - Paul Holmes.....</b>	<b>32</b>
5th - Davy Decuyper	30
6th - Joe Maessen	30
7th - Jan Vlaeymans	26
8th - Stefan Schreiber	23
9th - Antoine Cheurlin	22
10th - Auke Theuninck	22

With a difficult opening round over, 4th and 7th place was good enough for 4th place overall.

Holmes commented after the days racing action; "I am happy with how this weekend has gone and it's great that we have once again made some massive improvements working with our new 2012 set-up. I'm looking forward to the opening round of the British Championship this Sunday in Mepal and the rest of the racing season. I would like to say a huge thank you and welcome to all the great sponsors and supporters who are working with me in this 2012 season, It wouldn't be possible with you and I really appreciate your help.

