

2010 National Championships, Adelaide SA

Short-track

After a disappointing race the day before, I was keen to make amends. With a decent spot on the front row taken from the previous days quickest laps, I had no problems getting underway in a reasonable position. Sitting in 2nd I felt comfortable but it wasn't for long. Taberlay passed me and formed a duo with Norris about 5 seconds in front. Lap after lap they pushed hard and extended the gap, McConnell riding across to join them, making it a very strong group. Rain started falling and the track started to become greasy. The slippery shale corners became a mine field, wheels sliding sideways on most corners.

I struggled to limit the gap riding on my own. Carlson joined me in the chase. With 10 minutes to go I was still about 8 seconds behind. Over the next five minutes, we slowly closed the gap. I finally caught the back of them with about four laps to go. Carlson too. Immediately I found a spot to pass McConnell, I figured I might as well make the most of it, though I was still barely holding the pace. On the next lap I passed Norris and pulled into 2nd behind Sid. Carlson and Norris slowly lost touch as the race hit full bore. With one lap to go Sid really opened it up. I tried desperately to keep the gap to a minimum. I had nothing. I was practically falling around the corners, unable to hold any proper form on the bike. I pulled back to Sid and gave it everything to try and pass him with half a lap remaining. I didn't have the power. Dan got around me on the boggy grass section with 300 metres to go and sprinting out of the last corner was able to get level with Sid, but falling short by millimetres in a photo finish. I finished with a respectable third and a great sense of fulfilment to help forget the day before.