

Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship



Round 1: Lakeview Lodge

Mullins Makes Mid-South

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Graham, KY, Oct 2

The Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship started its first round with high hopes for great racing. It fell nothing short of its goal. Nearly 570 racers gathered at the Lakeview Lodge in Graham, Kentucky, to become a part of its challenge. No one mastered it better than **Charles Mullins**.

He came out on the front end of a very tight battle with two Sarge's Cycles / Fox backed racers, **Dustin Gibson** and **P.A. Allen**. They went back and forth for most of the race, but Mullins ended it about two miles from the finish when Mullins, with support from AmPro Yamaha, Factory Connection, Pro Taper, Factory Connection, and MSR, maneuvered the lead.

He said, "It was rough, but I just kept plugging away. On the last lap, I got around P. A. when he slid out in a mud hole, and then I took a better line to pass Dustin."

Mullins's win did not come easy. He struggled for more than one reason. Off the start, he kicked and kicked but nothing would go until his dad saved his day and started his bike. Unfortunately, he was fifty seconds down because he had vapor locked it. Four miles later, he was in the lead. Then shortly thereafter he found more trouble. This time it was his chain.

"I think my chain came off three times," said Mullins. "It'd come off crossing a rut or jumping a hill, so I'd have to stop and fix it."

By the fourth lap, the front runners linked, taking turns for the lead. It was a great race, ending fifteen seconds between them with Mullins in the lead and Gibson and Allen following.

KTM / KTM Part Equipment / Motorex / Maxxis supported Gibson said, "I just kind of hung back during the first couple of laps, checking things out and making sure nothing was going to hurt me. Then we started cruising. PA crashed, [two miles from the finish]

and I had to go around him. As I was going around him, I got off my balance and couldn't get my line. Mullins did, and that was it."

"Racing with Mullins can only mean one thing," said Team Green's Allen. "Racing starts on the first lap. It was fun, and I hope he comes back for more."

Other racers also had a good ride at the Pirelli / American Patriot Getaways / Moose / Maxxis backed series. **John Maschino** finished in fourth place while **Travis Green**, **Jason Wofford**, and **Harvey Whitaker** won their classes and made it in the top ten for overall.

Wofford had an impressive come back after going over the bars and losing his lead. He said, "I was running second after I ran into [**Jake**] **Fiddler** and went over the bars. Then I just got back up, chased him down, and caught the win."

Mid-South Hare Scramble Youth Series Cross Country Motorsports Championship

Round 1: Lakeview Lodge

Ashburn Again

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Graham, KY, Oct 2



The Mid-South Hare Scramble Youth Series made its way into Graham, Kentucky, for its first round of the Cross Country Motorsports Championship. It was a beautiful day, and 86 racers were anxious to be the first ones to kick up the dust on the Lakeview Lodge trail. In order to do that, they traveled from Tennessee, Illinois,

Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Junior A's winner, **Jordan Ashburn**, made all the right moves. Racing for Mid-State Motorsports, he maneuvered his Kawasaki into the first win for this season, but that's not really anything new. He was last year's Junior A Champion so this year's Lakeview has merely become the first one notched in his belt.

"It was a good race," said Ashburn. "I got third on the holeshot and then a couple of turns later; I was in the lead for the rest of the day."

Ashburn admitted that grass tracks were not his thing; however, he rode as if he liked them. The Junior A and B track was 3.6 miles long, which was the last portion of the adult's trail, and it consisted of fast trails that meandered throughout small hills.

Ashburn said, "I hated the fields! They were just choppy, and there were not enough woods."

However much he hated them, he still pulled the fastest lap time and finished a minute and a half in front of Sarge's Cycles backed **Tanner Byarly**. He proved to be Ashburn's main competition. During their third lap, Byarly tried to make a pass but was unable to complete it. On his third lap when Ashburn was seconds ahead, he charged for the lead, but ended it on the ground.

He said, "Two or three kids got in a pile up, and I hit them and flipped. By the time I got up, Jordan was long gone. He just kept pulling away."

Dustin Milam, Tyler Carter, and Zach Nash finished the Junior A class in the top five. Milam got the holeshot and then cruised in first place until Ashburn got around him. He moved back to third where he stayed for the rest of the race.

Meanwhile, Carter and Nash were getting to know a new class in Junior A. After battling it out last year in Junior B, they plugged away in the faster class. Carter finished in fourth while Nash got fifth place.

The Mid-South Youth's largest class was the Mini class. It had twenty-eight racers with **Alex Strunk** finishing out a very tight battle. **Wesley Bolton, Brett Iott, Bailey Cox, and Steven Middlebrook** all finished within fifteen seconds from one another.

The Pee Wee's raced on a mile and a half track with Cycle Shed's **Gage Walker** leading them through most of the five laps raced. Cole Kirchoff was directly behind him on a Mach Bore bike but mostly struggled with the straight-aways. Walker would lose him there every time.

Nolan Melton got the holeshot during the Pee Wee 4-6 start while Samuel Thurman won the class.