

Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship

Round 10: Big Bluff



Whibley and Gibson's Big Bluff Battle

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Cobb, Kentucky, March 19

The Western Kentucky Trail Riders' club were at it again as they ventured a new course for the Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship. They did a superb job at creating ten miles of trail for the Pirelli, American Patriot Getaways, Moose, and Maxxis sponsored series, setting the stage for a great battle between **Paul Whibley**, **Glenn Kearney**, and **Dustin Gibson**.

Off the AA start, Kearney got the lead and held onto it for the first three laps raced. He set a good pace for the twelve men in the AA class but after the third lap, Kearney ended his race, leaving Gibson and Whibley to fend for the finish.

It was a great battle between the remaining two, swapping positions several times. Gibson, Mid-South's Champion, had no problem connecting with Whibley, the Scott Summers / Parts Unlimited / Moose / Honda teammate. They raced aggressively until Whibley took the final lead just near the finish. A lapper got in Gibson's way, and he bobbed. Whibley finished first while Gibson took an impressive second. The remaining top five racers in the AA class were Suzuki mounted **Jeff Cregg**, Honda's **Scott Summers**, and Kawasaki's **Robert Patterson**.

KTM / Sarge's Cycles / Enduro Engineering / Pro Action of Kentucky / Maxxis backed Gibson said, "Everything just started working, and me and Paul and Glenn hooked up. I'm not sure what happened to Kearney, but Paul and I just kept going. We were having a good race, and then towards the end, he got by me. It was great move passing me near the finish."

"I'd like to thank Scott Summers for giving me a chance to race over here," said Whibley. "I'm from Pahiatua, New Zealand, so it's real exciting being here. The track here was a lot different than what I'm use to in New Zealand. It's tighter here."

Other Mid-South winners were Nathan Alering, Steve Ezell, Carlos Humphrey, and Chris Summers. **Nathan Alering**, the 4 Stroke A winner, wanted to thank Clint County Motorsports and Racing for everything. He got the lead on the second to the last lap when everyone was stopped from a bottleneck. He came around and cross-rutted to gain the lead with **Broc Sims** and **Jeffery Welch** following.

Steve Ezell boasted the Senior A victory. He tried to ride a smart race and took his time at taking the lead. Towards the end he snuck into his win, giving **Steve Thomas** and **Scott Martin** a second and third place finish.

“It was kind of like old times,” said Thomas. “We use to race like that all of the time, and it was a blast.”

Carlos Humphrey had a good ride in Vet B class. He said it was rough, but he got the lead about half way through it. Winning Senior C was **Chris Summers**. In spite of deep ruts, rocks and hills, he enjoyed every bit of his race.

Great appreciation was extended toward landowners, Jack Thomas and Mike Boyd. They were kind enough to allow everyone to participate in a great day for racing.

Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Youth Championship Round 10: Big Bluff



Kirchoff Bags the Bluff

BY RICH THURMAN and DEBBIE ALLEN

Cobb Ky., March 19

The Western Kentucky Trail Riders couldn't have picked a better place for round 10 of the AMA Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Youth Championship. They landed on a beautiful spot in Cobb, Kentucky, at

the Big Bluff racing venue, creating one fantastic trail for the 65 youth who entered the five morning races. It was a cold start with threats of rain, but Mother Nature held it off for a great day of racing.

The 65 Class had a good race with Sarge's Cycles / DNS Tools / KTM mounted **Steven Middlebrook** landing on top. **Cody Leachman** pulled the holeshot and kept Steven within striking distance on the first lap. The four and a half mile track separated the two and on the last two laps, Steve pulled out a one minute gap. Point's leader, **Brett Iott**, finished in third. Now, the point's battle for the championship has tightened up between Brett and Steven. With three more races left in the series, this will be one interesting battle to watch because both boys are charged for the fight.

Middlebrook said, "My favorite part was going through the big mud hole!"

Mid-State Motorsports / Kawasaki ace **Jordan Ashburn**, had a great battle in the Junior A division with Twin Air / Renthall / Utopia Graphics rider, **Tanner Byarly**. Byarly grabbed the holeshot while Ashburn came through the pack, making it one exciting finish. There was an all-out dash for the scoring tent in the last half mile with Ashburn getting the checkered flag by two seconds. With a solid third place finish, KTM / Hattiesburg Cycles mounted **Tyler Carter** showed everyone how he became last year's Junior B champ. He rode an impressive race.

In the 85cc Junior B class, it was **Dylan Cox** all the way. The Bridgestone / FMF / Fly backed Cox grabbed the holeshot with **Mason Thurman** right behind him. The FLS Inc. sponsored Thurman held second until Sarge's Cycles backed **Michael Huddleston** found a spot to pass. Huddleston finished in second and Thurman held strong for his best finish of the season in third.

In the 50cc 7 to 8 class, KTM rider **Cole Kirchoff** brought the point's championship to a tie with his win over fellow KTM rider, **Justin Lenard**. They battled from the get go as Lenard [Pictured 117] charged for the holeshot with Kirchoff [Picture 262] near his side. Lenard crashed off the

start and that was all Kirchoff needed to even it up. **Eli Holbrook** rounded out the podium. The 7 to 8 year old championship may go down to the last race to see who will come out on top.

In the 4 to 6 year old class, KTM / Sarge's Cycles / Motorex sponsored **Samuel Thurman** wrapped up his class championship with his eighth win of the season. Second place went to Cole's little brother **Zach Kirchoff** with **Kenneth Wolfe** rounding out the top three

Thurman said, "I am ready to move up now to see if I can beat Cole and Justin."

I would like to take this time to thank Rich Thurman for helping me out with this article.