

Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship



Round 8: Hazzard Hill Make-Up Round

Patterson Picks Off a Win

Morgan Picks a Grin

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

May 14, Vanleer, Tennessee

Closure was sweet for the winner's circle at the make-up round of the Mid-South

Cross Country Racing Series. The last round of the Pirelli, American Patriot Getaways, Moose, and Maxxis sponsored series ended up being all smiles for **Robert Patterson**, **Broc Sims**, and **Mike Sampson** as they finished a hard day of racing at Hazzard Hill, making it a grand finale fight for the finish.

Towards the end, things got a little heated between the top three racers, but Sarge's Cycles/ Kawasaki Team Green /Pro Action of Kentucky / Fox / Smith backed Patterson got the job done and finished out front with Sims and Sampson following.

"It was great," said Patterson. "I knew I had to overall it to get into second place behind **Dustin Gibson for the Championship**, and I am certainly happy with that. I got a good start and everything was going good until Mike got around me when I stopped for gas. I just held tight and had to reel them in and got the lead a couple of miles from the finish."

Big 4 Cycle / Ryno Racing / Scott / MSR / SimX backed Sims rode hard all day long. He got the holeshot and held the lead for quite a while, but it wasn't easy for his debut ride in the Pro class. He admitted to feeling a little hazy with Patterson and Sampson nipping at his rear wheel.

"It kind of gets on your nerves," said Sims, "but he [Patterson] got around me on the last lap and relieved that edge. He was pushing me the whole race."

Sampson also had his chance at the lead, but Sims took over on the last lap and Patterson passed him at the sixth mile marker just before the finish. Then Patterson put his head down for the win and got Sims right before the finish.

Happy with his second place finish, Sims also covets the 4 Stroke A Championship while Sampson finished Hazzard Hill in third place, finishing out the year with an impressive fourth place in Overall.

Other battles were quickly brought to an end when the Score Machine officials waived their final flag. It was down to the wire between **Josh Scott** and **Greg Elrod** in the Vet A class. They were one point shy of the win with **Kenny Judd** getting the checkered flag and Scott taking second but winning the Championship, and Elrod taking an impressive second place for this year's competitions.

Scott Kirchoff and **Mark Jones** also put in a good ride, finishing in the top five for the Vet A class.

Kirchoff said, "I got the holeshot and held everybody up for a good while, but then they got around me. I'm happy as long as I finish in front of my good buddy, Jones"

Looking good at the motorcross track, **Craig Morgan [pictured above]** picked out a nice grin for his fan of spectators. Soon after, he was singing the blues. He smacked a tree and broke his leg. In spite of his pain, the Andrew's Cycle / MSR supported country music star still grinned about the whole thing.

"I was in second place when I hit that tree," he said, "and I'll be danged if it didn't move me back to fifth."

Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Youth Championship

Round 8: Hazzard Hill Make-Up Round



Kirchoff King of the Pee Wee Hill

BY RICH THURMAN & DEBBIE ALLEN

May 14, Vanleer, Tennessee

The stage was set on Mother's Day and Hazzard Hill was definitely a place for a Mini showdown between two riders, **Steven Middlebrook** and **Brett Iott**. They were tied in points for the Championship, making it one interesting race for everyone with Middlebrook winning the Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship.

Due to heavy rain in Sparta, Tennessee, the eighth round was rescheduled for Hazzard Hill with the course running backwards to make it more of a

challenge. Iott looked strong the first lap pulling the pack of riders through their first mile, but Middlebrook was close behind him. Right before the end of the first lap, Middlebrook passed Iott for the lead.

Mile after mile Middlebrook slowly inched his way further apart. By the end it was Middlebrook taking the checkered flag. He won the Championship by 42 seconds over Brett Iott. Rounding out the podium was **Luke Chilman, Cody Leachman** and **Austin Lee**.

Cole Kirchoff [pictured above] had his first race in the Mini class. After being crowned King of the Pee Wee 7-8 bracket, he charged into a tenth place finish for his first race in the Mini class.

In the Peewee 4 to 6 year old class, **Zach Kirchoff** grabbed the holeshot with **Ben Jones** and **Austin True** following. Kirchoff led the first part of the race until he crashed and gave the lead up to Jones who took the top spot on the podium with **Kenneth Wolfe** coming in second and True finishing third. Kirchoff managed to pick himself up and finish in fourth place while **Dustin Goodman** took home fifth.

In the Peewee 7 to 8 year old class, Motorex backed rider **Sam “The Man” Thurman** took the top honors today. He grabbed the holeshot and pulled away, but it wasn't without mistakes. He crashed hard in a mud hole more than once during his six laps around the course. **Levi Plaster** had a great race with **Rudy Ferguson** and ended up in second place while Ferguson took home third.

In the 85cc Junior B class, **Michael Huddleston** came away with his first win of the season. The Suzuki mounted rider pulled the holeshot and never looked back. **Jeremiah Bowman** looked strong as usual on his way to second place. KTM mounted **Mason Thurman** rode with a stomach virus but still managed to leave the day with a podium finish in third which moved him into fourth place in the final point standings.

He said after his race, “I just want to go home!”

Racing in Junior A class, Hattiesburg's Cycles mounted Tyler Carter was the strong rider for most of the race. He made some impressive moves until lap five of six when he went down and handed the lead over to MSR / Suzuki mounted **Dustin Milam**.

Milam cruised on for the win and **Zach Nash** took home a well-deserved second place. Carter remounted and still managed to finish in third while **Adam Creasor** finished in fourth place and **Devin Walker** came in fifth.