

Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship Round 5: The Big Stripper



Gibson's Big Stripper Sizzle

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Lynnville, Indiana, Dec 4

Dustin Gibson [Pictured] sizzled at the fifth round of the Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship. On a cold day in Lynnville, Indiana, he set the trail on fire, racing his Sarge's Cycles / KTM 450 EXC into first place. Not really in any hurry, he waited until he was two miles from the finish and made his move for the Big Stripper's Overall position. This ultimately placed him as the comfortable leader in points for this season.

"It really wasn't all that difficult," said Gibson. "I just was kind of sitting back, enjoying the trail and waiting for a chance to gain the lead. I really wasn't in any hurry

or anything, just having fun riding with **Mike Sampson** and **Jeff Cregg**."

While Sampson held the lead for most of the race, he gave it up two miles from the finish when he bogged behind a lapper. With Gibson traveling in third place, he found his chance to get around him. Near the grass track, the lapper went down directly in front of Sampson. Gibson took the better line and got around all three riders: the lapper, Cregg, and Sampson. Then he charged for a fifteen seconds lead into the score tent and got the checkered flag.

Sampson said, "I made a rookie move, but I am glad for one thing. I got my speed back, and that's what I've been aiming towards. I was just wondering if I could catch them and keep up my speed. Now, I know I can, so we'll see."

Sampson finished the race in fourth place. Cregg followed Gibson into the score tent as second with **P. A. Allen** moving into third place, and **Robert Patterson** made the top five.

The next in line were several riders from the A classes. They had four racers who made top ten in overall placements. Racing in 250 A, **Travis Green** ventured the Pirelli / American Patriotic Getaways / Moose / Maxxis sponsored series in 6th place in overall while **Broc Sims** and **Jake Fiddler** fought for seventh and eighth place.

Sims, like Gibson, waited until the end to get the win. They were tight the entire race, and then Sims made an impressive move; it was an inside pass going along the ridge. Fiddler tried to pass him but was unable to and finished three seconds after Sims.

"It was an awesome battle," said Sims. "Jake led me the whole race. On the last lap, I caught him and got around him a mile from the finish."

“This was a rough course!” said Vet C winner, Dave Woodfin. “There were a lot of lot of rocks and roots. It had some tough up hills and down hills, but it was a good race.”

The Lynnville Area Dirt Riders Club did an excellent job at promoting this event. They created a challenging course for both the young and the old. The Big Stripper is well known for its tight, long and narrow ridges created from old strip pits that were reclaimed and renovated into a very nice park.

Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship Youth Series Round 5: The Big Stripper

Iott Out to Win

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Lynnville, Indiana, Dec 4

The Mid-South Cross Country Youth took matters into their own hands as they made their way into Lynnville, Indiana. They toughed it out, claiming top honors for finishing the fifth round of the Pirelli, American Patriots Getaway, Moose, and Maxxis sponsored event. In all, there were 66 youth lined up for The Big Stripper, and it proved to be one tough cookie for most. However they chewed it up and swallowed it whole, enjoying every bite.

Brett Iott, the winner of the Mini class, outsmarted eighteen of his opponents. Racing his Kawasaki, he charged for the lead early and claimed the win making three laps in twenty minutes. He fought with **Steven Middlebrook**, who finished the race, taking second place. Macaye Gribbons and newcomer, Blake Ricketts, took home third and fourth place while Logan P'Pool finished in fifth place.



“It was rough like always,” said Iott, “but I moved into the lead on the first lap.”

Iott got his second win for this season and is currently tied for the lead in points with Steven Middlebrook, Wesley Bolton, and Alex Struck for first place.

Racing in the Junior A class with a Mid-State, Scott, and an MSR support ride, **Jordan Ashburn** claimed his fifth win for this season. He took charge on the second lap, overcoming a battle with **Tanner Byarly**[Pictured]. They finished the race in first and second place, followed by GSI Racing / 661 backed **Dustin Milam**.

Byarly said, “I got up front on the start and Jordan passed me about half way through the first lap. Then I passed him back. I slid over on a rock while going up a hill; he got around me, and I could never catch him after that.”

Milam had a great comeback ride. Off the start, he suffered in twelfth place, but slowly but surely retrieved the podium finish.

Likewise, **Nicholas Anderson** and **Lauren Parker** were happy with their finishes. Up front, they both had troubles but kept pushing for the checkered flag. After falling in the mud, Anderson got soaked. Unable to grip his throttle, he struggled until Dad pulled off his gloves, and then he made up three spots and finished the race in eighth place.

Parker said, “It was hard because it was slick and muddy, but it got better. I’m happy I finished.”

Racing strong in the Pee Wee classes were ten brave souls. They struggled on so many different levels but like an Ever Ready battery, they kept the charge. The track was slick, and the hills were every part of a man’s course, steep and off camber. They held tight and finished making two or more laps.

Cole Kirchoff, Justin Lenard, Tyler Bottoms, and Eli Holbrook were the leaders in Pee Wee 7-8 while **Sam Thurman, Zach Kirchoff, Ben Jones, Kenneth Wolfe, Gavin Leech, Taylor Greenwell, Nathan Rogers, and Cruz Sampson** learned all the right moves in Pee Wee 4-6. Thanks to many parents and track officials, the youth really enjoyed a great race put on by the Lynnville Area Dirt Riders Club.