

Mid-South Cross Country Summer Series Round 2: The Copperhead Run



Henderson Charms the Snake

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Salem, Kentucky, June 25

When you think of summer and the Mid-South series, you should keep a few things in mind. It gets hot and dusty, and the racers are in need for a change. After the long haul of winter, the riders want something different, and the second round of the Mid-South Cross Country Summer Series gave them exactly what they were looking for, another good challenge.

The Copperhead Run proved to be the perfect place for some great competition as many of the riders moved into their next level of ability. Getting a taste of new surroundings, **Kyle Henderson [Pictured]**, **Damon Prince**, and **Steve Thomas** whooped it up and made the podium in Salem, Kentucky. Henderson normally races SERA and

Arkansas events, but this Mid-South newcomer charmed the snake and won the prize while Prince and Thomas enjoyed their moves into the 250 A class by coming in second and third place.

Off the start, Henderson got the holeshot, but Prince was right behind him waiting for a chance to gain the lead. They took off while the remaining members of the 250 A class suffered a set back. Shortly after the green flag, a big pile up occurred with Thomas landing right in the middle of it. It took him a while to get his Keith Cunningham, borrowed Suzuki untangled, so he pretty much had to eat everyone's dust.

Henderson and Prince took turns in the lead for the first two laps. After falling, Prince got around him, and then they swapped the lead one more time. On the second lap, Village Cycle Center / Motorex backed Henderson got around him one final time. On the third lap, Prince was a minute down from Henderson, so the CGR / Suzuki of Paris / Fly Racing supported racer pushed for a better second place finish.

Henderson said, "It was a good, fun trail; it was a little bit rocky, but I really enjoyed it. We rode together for a little while, and then I got away for a little bit. It was good, a good ride, and good sportsmanship; everything good all the way around."

"It was real nice out there," said Prince. "There were some good rock sections that were pretty wild, mostly because my front end would go every which way, but it was fun."

Meanwhile Thomas was racing mostly in third place until **Tim Baker** got around him. Then two turns from the finish, Thomas pushed him hard going around the corner, got the tuck under, and finished in third place with Baker coming in fourth place.

Scott Crick, Vet B winner, got off to a bad start. He was slipping and sliding and making a few bad choices. After settling down, he got into a good rhythm, pulled away, and became the fastest B rider, making sixth place in overall.

Dustin Stevens said he fell more today than he ever fell in his life, but he stuck it out and became the winner. Luckily, he signed up for points and became the leader in Light A class also.

Mid-South Cross Country Youth Summer Series

Round 2: The Copperhead Run



Christensen Charges

By Debbie Allen

Salem, Kentucky, June 25

Mid-South racing has never been quite so interesting since Darin Tabor joined the ranks of promoting events. No longer a rookie, he opened his gate to the second round in Salem, Kentucky, and did a superb job at providing a top notch event which included the usual tight wood's sections, a fantastic grass track, one big hill, and an unforgettable rock section for the Mid-South Cross Country Youth Summer Series.

Excitement filled the air as the youth racers started their engines. They were competing with youth riders from several states. While most were from Kentucky and Tennessee, some traveled from Indiana, Illinois, Alabama, and

Mississippi. They were trying their best to stay ahead of everyone else who faced the points' battles.

After the green flag, **Cody Christensen** was the first off the start. He stayed in the lead until **Josh Nicewinter** got around him. They were both fast and smooth, but Nicewinter learned very quickly that a new set of Pirelli's and some Tireballs could have made the difference. Getting a flat tire is no fun when you're in the lead and by their fourth lap, Christensen got the lead. They finished the race taking first and second place in Junior A class while **Adam Rooney** took third place.

Rooney said, "I liked all the wide open sections and the whole track."

Rooney started out in last place and then things just got worst. On an up hill, he went down. Realizing that he wasn't too comfortable with that position, he dug deeper and pushed himself into third place. He wanted to thank his parents for bringing him.

Several other riders faced a bigger problem. They were having trouble with getting up the hill. Which caused a ripple effect to some of the ones who could make it; one rider would go up the hill and have to come back down. While coming down, the first rider would take out everyone in his path. **Michael Williamson**, Batey Farm's Junior B winner, learned all too quickly the importance of picking good lines when going up steep hills.

After his bike landed on **Garrett Riddle's** bike, they both decided to look for a better line for the next lap. It worked, but unfortunately for Williamson, he finished in fourth place while **Brett Iott** shimmied into first place.

Thus far, **Dalton Riddle** is the only rider with a two for two win. It was an exciting race for the Vanleer, Tennessee, native who was second off of the start.

He said, "**Justin [Lenard]** was flying out there. He just pulled away, and I couldn't catch him. But then, he hit a tree and was limping down the hill, and that's when I got around him." "I was going down a down-hill and hit a rock," said Lenard, "and that knocked me into a tree."

Lenard got the Mini holeshot and finished in second place with **Tyler Harris** charged into third place. **Jacob Pine [Pictured]** and **Matthew Harris** were the winners of the Pee Wee classes.