

Mid-South Cross Country Summer Series

Round 4: Battle of Iuka

Allen Sizzles in Summer

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Iuka, Mississippi, July 30



The fourth round of the Mid-South Cross Country Summer Series was a scorcher. With temperatures reaching three digits, the Battle of Iuka became one tough event and many felt the heat to be purely exhausting; especially when making their fifth and final lap. However, **P. A. Allen [Pictured]** was making his own heat, finishing in first place as the overall winner.

Off the start, Allen fired up his Andrew Cycles / Pro Circuit / GPR / IMS / Dunlop backed Kawasaki and was in the lead by the end of the first lap. After getting a bad start, he took his

time at gaining the lead, and then he put on a charge to finish the race with two minutes lead.

Allen said, "I didn't want to race where **Dustin [Gibson, Mid-South's current Champion]** was racing because I'm not one hundred percent. I thought I wasn't in shape for it, but I ended up winning anyways."

Meanwhile **Kyle Henderson, Chase Bishop, Jordan Ashburn, and Josh Scott** were making all of the right moves for the remaining overall positions. Henderson rode an impressive race. He got the holeshot and stayed in the lead until he and everyone else overshot a turn. With that in mind, everyone had to turn around and head back to the trail, with Allen, **Robert Patterson,** and Gibson maneuvering the lead while he took last place.

Understandably, Henderson had to fight his way through ruts, tight woods, and dust to get his second place position. He did, and he fought a good fight for first place but was unable to catch him because Allen was nowhere in sight. Allen finished the race taking first place while Henderson finished it in second place.

Henderson said, "I went from first to last on the first lap. I came up to second and stayed there the whole race."

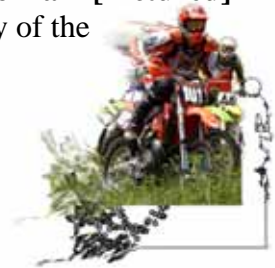
The next two overall positions came from the top B riders. Chase Bishop and Jordan Ashburn were on fire. After gaining the top two places in the 201 Open B class, they decided to make a move for the overall positions, finishing the race in third and fourth places.

Josh Scott and **Jason Dickey** also found some comfortable spots racing in the Vet A class, and Bob's House of Honda supported **Phillip Barker** shined a win in the Senior A class. Barker was

the third rider into the woods and luckily got the lead by the front runners' misfortunes. They too overshot a turn, but Barker tucked it in and remained on the trail and gained the lead.

Scott finished the race in first place, taking home the bragging rights for fifth place in overall. Dickey finished the race in second place and he came in ninth place in overall. He said, "I was second off of the holeshoot and stayed in second the whole time, give out and all! It got tiresome because it was so hot, and that last lap- Wooh!"

Kyle Greer, Childs Bronson, Ladd Dilworth, Chris Summer, and Matt Gorham [Pictured] were the winners of each of Iuka's C classes and actually did better than many of the B riders.



Mid-South Cross Country Youth Summer Series Round 4: Battle of Iuka

Anderson: Too Hot to Handle

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Iuka, Mississippi, July 30

The fourth round of the Mid-South Cross Country Youth Summer Series got off to a smooth start with cooler temperatures starting its mid-morning race. Very little dust and near perfect conditions made the Iuka Hare Scramble well worth the Mississippi trek. The racers traveled from Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana to get a good taste of the Mid-South competition.

Nicholas Anderson [Pictured] didn't have to go too far since the Mark Aker's prepped course was right behind his back yard.



The Iuka native took advantage and got control early. However, once he got the lead, it wasn't easy pickings. Racing a KTM, **Josh Nicewinter** gave it all he had to prevent the win but in the end, DCR and Motor World backed Anderson was the first to top the hill, which led to the last woods section, and he won the race.

He said, "I got a good start but wrecked and Josh Nicewinter passed me. It took me a while to get back up to him, but I passed him when he and another rider missed a turn. I thought the track was rough, but I liked it."

After Anderson got the lead, he wrecked again and wasted no energy on his delay. He got back up and shook himself off to finish the race. Nicewinter and **Brandon Marley** were next while Adam Rooney fifth place.

The track was rough for many of the youth riders. They mostly struggled with the deeply rutted hills and the slick roots from the trees. This made for an interesting ride for many, including the current point's leader in the Junior B class, **Brett Iott**.

Thus far, he has the strong hold on most of the summer series' wins. He won two very tough races, Gamaliel and Salem, while **Michael Williams** won the first round in Charlotte, Tennessee. This time both riders struggled, giving one more rider a chance at taking the championship.

Jacob Oliver got the holeshot and simply took off. He led the entire race, making four laps with a minute to spare. Racing his YZ 85, it was no problem for him to maneuver the lead. He was hot and had a trouble free ride, closing a gap between his competitors.

“I liked the hills,” said Oliver, “and I liked the competition.”

Iott and Williams lacked the same sentiments, admitting to more than their fare share of bumps and bruises. Iott and Williams kept wrecking and never found that comfortable spot in the zone.

Williams said, “It was good, but the down hills were rough and my bike kept rolling side-ways. Then right before the finish, I hit a tree and landed a knuckle buster.”

Indiana native, **Jacob Pyne**, traveled far to earn his win. He charged on his KTM 50 and won the Pee Wee 7-8 class, making three laps. **Mason Harris** and **Allisen Crain** followed him in second and third place while **Britten Crain**, **Trey Ledbetter**, and **Matthew Harris** made the podium in the Pee Wee 4-6 class.