

Mid-South Cross Country Summer Series Round 6: Chigger Run



Gibson Chomps Chiggers

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Vanleer, TN, AUG 27

The last round of the Mid-South Cross Country Summer Series was held at Chigger Run in Vanleer, Tennessee. It was a nice day, and its final results

proved nothing out of the ordinary. The AA riders are fast, and the Novice riders are getting there.

As usual, **Dustin Gibson [Pictured]** and **P.A. Allen** remained on top of the podium. Coming in first place, Gibson took the lead on the first lap and swapped it back and forth with Pro Circuit / Shift / Fox / Dunlop / Smith backed Allen. They were the front runners the entire race with Gibson taking home a strong lead on the last lap.

Gibson was the second one into the woods, and he got around Allen while making a turn on the motorcross track. From there, the KTM / Sarge's Cycles / Maxxis / MSR sponsored Gibson [Pictured] led for two or three miles and then he washed out.

He said, "I think everybody but Robert [Patterson] passed me, but I just picked my bike up and started picking them off. Afterward, I was really riding hard without a clutch and brakes."

Coming in second place, Allen got the holeshot and battled with Gibson until the dust got the best of him. He had a lonely ride in second place as the remaining AA pack drifted far behind him.

In a Kawasaki sweep, the next three finishers proved that there were some fast novice riders too. No doubt, they are making plans for the AA level in the near future. Still too young to venture that AA route, **Loupie Lamruno** and **Jordan Ashburn** are quickly making names for themselves. The past winter season introduced them as some very strong riders with Ashburn claiming the Junior A Championship. They raced hard; topping their B classes and then going for the top five.

Lambruno kicked up the dust in the 201-Open B class, and then barreled through some of the fastest A class riders like: **Jason Dickey, Clay Hedgepath, Jim Bates, Ronald**

Skipper, Phillip Barker, Scott Martin, and Taras Massey, saving **Jeffery Welch** for last. After getting by them, he moved into the AA group and got all but two, finishing third place in overall.

Likewise, Ashburn won 200 B class and then charged his way through two B classes and the entire A classes, finishing in fifth place in overall while Welch, the fastest A rider, got fourth place. Jeff Bowman took second in the 200 B class. He freight trained his KTM into sixth place in overall, seconds behind Ashburn.

Chad McCaslin had a great ride. He got the lead on the first lap until Chris Rustin passed him. Then on the last lap, Rustin pulled over for a drink and McCaslin got around him for his first win in Vet C class.

McCaslin said, "I believe he sabotaged himself by stopping for that drink."

Joey Wilkins was the winner of 4 Stroke C. He got the holeshot, struggled with some barbed wire, got unstuck, and then continued his lead.

**Mid-South Cross Country Youth Summer Series
Round 6: Chigger Run**



Marley Manhandles Mid-South

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Vanleer, TN, AUG 27

The Chigger Run hosted the final round of the Mid-South Cross Country Youth Series in Vanleer, Tennessee. Although its large turnout of youth riders made it more challenging for those who battled for the lead in points; **Brandon**

Marley [Pictured] and **Michael Williams** showed no concern. They were out to win, and they gave it their all to bring home the prize.

Racing in the Junior A class, Marley manhandled his RM Suzuki into the lead early. He was the first rider off of the line with **Cody Christensen** and **Dylan Taylor** directly behind him. They entered a long, dry creek section and came around to the motorcross track. Unfortunately for Marley, he overshot a turn; giving KTM mounted Christensen the lead. Later, Marley got back around him when they both got off the trail. When they spun around, Marley took control and never gave it up.

He rode as if he were on a mission, trying his best to stay in front of point's leader, Christensen. He succeeded and finished the race in first place with **Mason Thurman**, Christensen, Dylan Taylor, and **Clint Price** pulling in the top five.

Although, Christensen got third place, he still faired very well. He won the Junior A Champions for the summer season. At this race, he lost most of his time on his lap and finished the race two minutes behind second place.

Price said, "The track was a little tricky, and I crashed near the score tent, breaking my clutch. Then there was this huge hill and it looked a little scary but if you pinned it just right, you'd go right up it."

Junior B's class had a battle going to the finish between Mid-South Motoplex's **Brett Iott** and Williams. It was tight going into the race with Williams fighting for a gap between his lead. That didn't happen; however, Williams did enjoy his win for the day.

“It was good,” said Williams, “but I had some problems and Iott didn’t. Even though I won this race, I could have won the Championship if Iott would have gotten third. But, that’s okay; I’m happy for him.”

“I think it’s cool,” said Iott. “I’m glad I got first place in the Championship if I did. If Michael did, well, then I’m glad for him. As far as the track today, it was rough; especially the creek because there were just loose, big junks of rocks. I entered it in second place and left it in third.”

Later on, Iott’s luck changed when **Keith Dunning** fell, giving him a chance to pass for second and diminishing Williams chance for the Championship.

Dalton Riddle, Mini class Champion, was quite the opposite. He was going into this last round as the winner. He had consistently finished every race in first or second place all summer long. This race he finished in second with Joshua Cartwright taking first place and Justin Lenard finishing in third.