

Pirelli / Moose Racing / Maxxis

AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Winter Hare Scramble Series

Round 12: Robert Patterson Memorial

MID-SOUTH'S MEMORIAL RACE

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Nunnely, Tennessee, April 1, 2007



March 25, 2007, will forever be a sad day for the Mid-South Hare Scramble Series. On that day, exactly one week before the twelfth round, the track's promoter, **Robert Patterson**, suffered a fatal accident, leaving Mid-South with a major loss and RP Racing with a huge decision, "What do we do, now?"

The answer came quickly when they asked, "What would Robert do?"

He'd race, and so they did, changing their itinerary to pay tribute to a man who dedicated his whole life to the sport of racing.

While bittersweet was the expected tone, soon the spirit of racing took over. Some chose to race for the win while others chose to sign up and paid homage. They simply watched, too sad to race.

In particular, **Dustin Gibson**[911] and **Tristan Redferrin** decided early that they were going to race and win. Each was on a mission, and they were not going to let anyone get in their way. Gibson won overall and the AA class while Redferrin got second place in overall and first place in the 250 A class.



Gibson said, "I called Robert's cell phone last night, and I told him that I was going to win for him."

Off the AA start, Gibson waited for all the other racers to go. Once they hit the first turn, he started his engine and as a lone rider, held up two fingers, illustrating Patterson's number two on his number plate.

"I just wanted to win this for him," said Gibson. "He meant a lot to me and so many other people. Not only was he my main sponsor since I was little, but he was a friend. I could call him and talk to him. We talked a lot and we raced a lot. I'm going to miss him. A lot of people will."



Redferrin [312] said, "Robert was working on a good deal for me and then this, so now this win is for him."

Shortly after the start, Gibson took the lead and stayed out front. The AA riders made four laps with several of the 250 A riders moving into their arena. For the first two

laps, it was a close race among them. Chase Bishop raced in second place and John Maschino charged from the rear in third and Redferrin was pulling right along beside them.

Gibson said, "I wasn't really racing hard. I was just riding and when I saw someone coming, I'd pick up the pace. After a while, I wanted to pull some time, so I went faster."

Redferrin and Bishop went back and forth several times for the first couple of laps. Afterward, it was an unseen battle for second place in overall. While Redferrin dropped back, it wasn't enough for the elapsed time to extinguish the lead. They both finished the race in one hour and fifty seven minutes and fifty-six seconds. The tie was broken by a half of a second with Redferrin taking the lead and Bishop [561] taking second place in AA and third place in overall.



My Own Race:

Cody Miller

6th Place

Cody Miller was another rider on fire for the win. Racing for Sarge's Cycles, he too had a motive. He got off to a great start in 4 Stroke A and garnered the lead. He then took it up a notch to finish the race in sixth place in overall.

Briefly:

The **Robert Patterson** Memorial was a race dedicated to a man who gave so much as a former owner of Sarge's Cycles. He was a track promoter and a sponsor of the series, sponsoring many of its racers and being a good friend to many and an honorable family member to his wife, Becky; two sons, Cody

and Jacob; and daughter, Chelsea. He will be missed.

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Salute to Sarge

BY Rich Thurman & DEBBIE ALLEN

Nunnely, Tennessee, April 1, 2007

Round twelve was renamed the **Robert Patterson**

Memorial Race in honor of one of the finest racers the Mid-South has ever known. Robert was sponsor to many of the Youth racers attending through his shop, Sarges' Cycles.



Off the start of the Junior A class, two of Sarges' Cycles sponsored racers fought for the holeshot. Series point's leader **Tanner Byarly** and runner-up **Michael Huddleston** fought for the holeshot with Byarly coming out on top and in the lead.

Unfortunately for Byarly, his strong lead was almost overtaken. He came out of the woods to enter a short straight a way which led to the score tent. Everything looked good until he meandered onto a different part of the track, going backwards! He misread the arrows and in order to get back onto the course, he had to cross a deep ravine. To add to his problems, he got stuck and nearly lost the second place to Norris Cycles KTM rider, **Devin Walker**.

Walker, looking to capitalize on Byarly's misfortune, nearly collided with him as he was re-entering the track after getting through the ravine. The race was on with Twin-Air/Pro-Action/Scott/So-Cal/ racer Huddleston ten seconds back and desperately needing a win to stay in the race for the championship with Byarly.

When they came around for the second lap, Huddleston was bearing down on both Byarly and Walker. On lap three, Byarly was nowhere to be found. He lost his clutch during lap three and was now out of contention for the win and a guaranteed Junior A class championship that would go along with it. With Byarly on the sidelines watching, Huddleston found extra motivation to dig deeper on the last two laps, and he cruise easily for the win. Walker also benefited from Byarly's bad luck. He came in a strong second place. This was Walker's best finish of the year.

This sets up a last round battle between the two for the championship between the two Sarge's Cycles Kawasaki mounted riders.

Acerbis/Tag/Scott Yamaha mounted **Jacob Oliver** secured his first AMA Mid-South Cross Country Championship with a win in the Junior B class. Oliver has fought all season with **Dylan Majors** and fellow Yamaha rider, **Brett Iott**. Oliver grabbed the holeshot and never was challenged. **Michael Williams** came in second and Iott was third. KTM rider **Macaye Gribbons** had his best finish of the year in fourth with Colin Brasher coming in fifth.

Instead of receiving the standard plaque at this race, Robert Patterson memorial medals were handed out to the racers which had his picture displayed.

Robert Patterson will sadly be missed.