

Pirelli / Moose Racing / Maxxis

AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Winter Hare Scramble Series

Round 5: Copperhead Run

Allen Hisses at Copperhead Competition

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

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PA. Allen came on strong at the fifth round of the Mid-South Cross Country Winter Hare Scramble Series, and he rode like the wind as he claimed his second victory this season. With great satisfaction, Allen went home with a big smile on his face. Not only did he beat last year's Champion; but better yet, it was at Salem, Kentucky, which due to frozen ground was the toughest race so far this year.

Copperhead Run was no easy feat, but Team Green Kawasaki / Andrew's Cycles / Pro Circuit / Monster / Smith supported Allen found a comfortable spot and eased into the win with a whole new attitude. He simply focused and rode smooth without even looking like it was difficult at all.

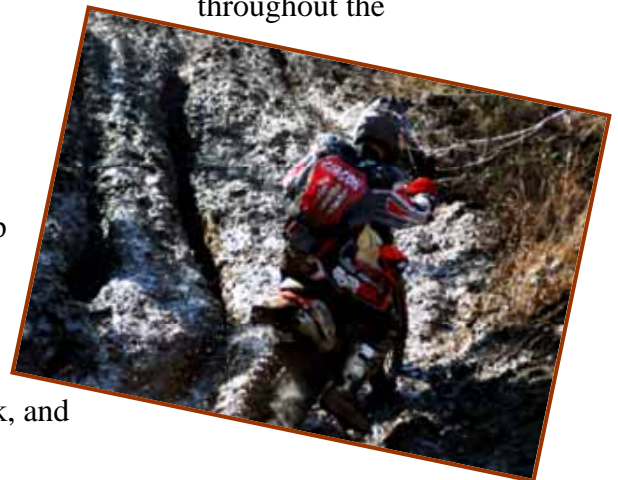
Allen said, "I got third on the start and it was frozen, so I fell back to fifth because I don't do very well on that. The second lap, the ground thawed out and I really pushed for the front. I had a good ride with Dustin. I got by him when he stopped for gas; then he'd get by me, but I wasn't really worried about it. I just felt like I was in control. My last lap, I was in front of him and felt like I could do whatever I wanted."



Off the start, Mike Sampson [13] got the holeshot with Gibson [Front Left] taking the lead going into the first turn. They continued their lead throughout the first lap.

During the second lap, Allen made the fastest lap time of the

day and maneuvered his KX 250 into a sweet position, right behind Gibson. From there, they passed back and forth for laps two and three, making forty minute lap times because of the tough racing conditions. It was slick, and there were deep ruts that slowed everyone.



When they hit the score tent, Gibson [Pictured 911] got the white flag with Allen just seconds behind him. Shortly thereafter, Gibson pulled over for a pit and Allen pulled away, finishing the race with a minute and twenty seconds lead.

Gibson said, "It doesn't really matter to me. I'm really just out there having fun."

Most of the battles at this race were those fought with the elements. The track was slimy due to a quick thaw of the saturated ground. It was tough throughout the entire eleven miles races per lap. Deep ruts lengthened the distance between many riders, and the AA riders were not any different.

Gibson struggled on his second lap after the creek crossing. He got stuck and that's when **Mike Sampson** got around him and Allen crept up to him. Later, he suffered from fatigue because he raced twelve miles of the Last Man Standing. After all of this, he still maintained his second place position.

Meanwhile Sampson and Obermeyer / Yamaha / Tire Balls / Johnnie Signs backed **John Maschino** [Pictured Right] managed to get stuck and unstuck like everyone else. While Sampson held the front line for a good bit of the race, he later dropped back to third. On his final lap, he buried his Norris Cycle's KTM knee deep into a slush filled rut. After several minutes of struggling, he watched Maschino pass him. Later, Maschino also got stuck. A minute later, he was up and running moving into third place while Sampson finished in fourth.



"It was a little slick at first," said Maschino. "I tried my best to stay out of everyone's roosts. It was slimy and muddy throughout most of the track, and then it got better after a while."

My Own Race:

Tristan Redferrin 5th Place

Tristan Redferrin proved to be the top A rider as he made it into a fifth place in Overall position. He said, "It was good. I wrecked a lot, but it all worked out." He was third off the start and got the lead three miles into the first lap. He wanted to thank KTM and Johnnie Friedli.

Logan Chilman 7th Place

MSR / Scott sponsored **Logan Chilman** also had a great ride as he manhandled his KTM into his best finish ever, 7th place in Overall and first place in Light A. He was in third

place off of the start, got stuck, and then found the lead. He had a good battle with **Tyler Phillips** and **Chaz Akers**, racing in the Light A class. They took the podium.

Jordan Ashburn 10th Place

Jordan Ashburn simply carved another notch into his belt. He not only won his class, but he also was the fastest B rider, coming in tenth place in Overall. That's not bad for a fourteen year old, who only last year was the Junior A Champion.

Briefly...

Understandably, it's that time of year again when rain, snow and sleet do a tremendous amount of damage to a winter track. Luckily for everyone, the saturated ground accompanied by cold weather posed no real threat, but the brief thaw that followed made things slick off of the start and gnarly into the first lap. Likewise, it created eleven miles of pure exhaustion for each and every lap made. After two hours, Score Machine officials were forced to make a decision, giving the fastest riders in the AA class the white flag while everyone else got the checkered flag.

Results: (Based on AMA's rule of 1 drop per 4 races)

Season's Top Ten: 1. P.A. Allen (Kaw); 2. Robert Patterson (Kaw); 3. John Maschino (Yam); 4. Mike Sampson (KTM); 5. Jake Fiddler (Suz); 6. Dustin Gibson (KTM); 7. Chase Bishop (Yam); 8. Jeff Cregg (Suz); 9. Tristan Redferrin (KTM); 10. Loupie Lambruno (Kaw).