

# Pirelli / Moose Racing / Maxxis

AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Winter Hare Scramble Series

Round 6: The Battle of Iuka

## Allen Bags Battle of Iuka

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Salem, Kentucky, December 10, 2006



Team Green Kawasaki and Andrew's Cycles backed **P.A. Allen** was at it again, pulling another win. This time it was at the sixth round of the Mid-South Cross Country Winter Hare Scramble Series in Iuka, Mississippi. Now, in his third win, he topped an exciting battle between the remaining podium, **Robert Patterson** and **Broc Sims**.

Everyone knew it wasn't going to be an easy win. The competition was tight even though Allen has had the lead in the points' battle since race one; several riders have made solid attempts to defeat the Charlotte, Tennessee native. Among one of them, Patterson who is now second in points, admitted to needing a win. So, this forty year old stepped up his regimen in order to keep up with Allen who is twenty-five and Sims who is eighteen. With this in mind, this mid-season race was a battle from start to finish.

With help from Pro Circuit / Monster / Smith, Allen [37] became the frontrunner with **Mike Sampson** [747] and **Kyle Henderson** [27] fighting for the lead. They led the remaining AA class onto the eleven mile track. It was a fun course, weaving in and out of the spectator's view, making it interesting for everyone.

On the first lap, Allen crashed, moving Patterson into the lead. He held strong for the first lap with Sims and Sampson charging from the rear while Allen dropped back to fourth.



The second lap, Allen was charged for the win. He made the fastest lap time and pulled into the lead with Patterson and Sims maintaining the same pace for the three remaining laps. It was tense as they periodically weaved in and out of view practically touching tires. At one place, Patterson would be hauling second while the next place would find

Sims in the middle. Two miles from the finish, Patterson got around Sims for the last time and the racers finished one, two, and three as Allen, Patterson, and Sims.

“All the way, every lap it was a battle,” said Johnnie Signs / Scott supported Sims. “We were together all the way and on the last few miles, Robert got me for second and I took third.”



Patterson said, “I almost had him. P.A. and I were trying to get around a lapper at the same time. He went left, I went right, and that poor lapper didn’t know what to do. Unfortunately, he cut me off and there went my chance.”



## My Own Race:



**Loupie Lambruno** 4<sup>th</sup> Place

**Loupie Lambruno** [19] became one of those reckoning forces in the 250 A class. He said, “On the first lap I took the lead, and I just ran with it.” He finished first in his class and took home an impressive fourth place in Overall finish for his Sarge’s Cycles / IMS / Thor backed ride.

**Mike Sampson** 6<sup>th</sup> Place

Third place in points: **Mike Sampson** said, “The track was awesome and on the first lap, I crashed, hit my throat, and rode like a beginner the rest of the day.”

**Chase Bishop** 10<sup>th</sup> Place

“It started out pretty good,” said **Chase Bishop**. “Then I got arm pump real bad and from there things just got worse. I’d blow a corner and Loupie would get by me. All day long it went like that.”

## **Briefly...**

The Iuka race marked the half-way point for the Pirelli, Moose, and Maxxis challenge. Now with a bigger Pro Purse, the riders have traveled throughout the Mid-South section of the country which included Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Mark Akers, the track promoter, did an awesome job at creating a fun track for all of the riders who race in the Mid-South Cross Country Hare Scramble Series. It was a fast motocross type track that circled the parking area. Interestingly enough, he made the track enjoyable for everyone as the riders move in and out of plain sight, moving throughout the course.

### **Results:**

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



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## Thurman Fires First at Battle of Iuka

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Salem, Kentucky, December 10, 2006



Tennessee's native, **Samuel Thurman** [1] may have had problems getting to the sixth round of the Mid-South Cross Country Youth Winter Hare Scramble Series, but there were no problems grabbing the win. Riding his KTM / Sarges Cycles / Motorex / K100 / Two2cool / PVK Racing backed Pro Senior 50. He put his head down on the longest Pee Wee course of the year, racing in great sunny Mississippi weather and leading from start to finish.

He said, "I got a great start and about halfway around the track I could not hear anyone behind me anymore."

The Pee Wees ran the same two mile course as the Minis and the Juniors did. Fellow KTM rider, **Jacob Pyne**, came all the way from Bloomsdale, Indiana and finished a strong second while **Eli Holbrook** rounded out the podium on his KTM.

Notably, Thurman was last year's Pee Wee Champion within the 4-6 age bracket. Likewise, this year may not be much different. Now at the half way mark, he has won five of the six rounds in the 7 to 8 year old class and holds a good lead in the points chase for the Championship this season. Pyne and Holbrook follow, placing second and third place in points. With six rounds remaining though, anything can happen.

The Pee Wee 4 - 6 year old class saw the return of KTM rider, Cruise Sampson. He was placed on the sidelines after he injured himself at school. He was in good form but still came up short to series point's leader Matthew Harris who won. Harris put in a solid ride and also has won five of the six races in the younger Pee Wee division. Kruz came in second place while third place went to Luke Street.

Junior A's top rider was Kawasaki mounted, **Tanner Byarly** [7]. He fought tooth and nail for the holeshot between KTM rider, **Mason Thurman** and the remaining sixteen in their class. Byarly grabbed the lead around the first corner



and never looked back. Thurman dropped back to third after being passed by **Michael Huddleston**. Two laps into the race, series point's leader Huddleston had to pull out due to bike problems.

This left KTM/Hattiesburg Cycles backed **Tyler Carter** with a chance to reel in Byarly for the win. It was not to be though as Byarly put in seven strong laps for the win by almost a minute over Carter. **Devin Walker** took third, **Cody Christensen** got forth, and **Jeremiah Bowman** finished in fifth place.

Unfortunately for Thurman, he struggled in all sorts of ways. First he crashed, allowing Bowman to ease into fifth place. Then he got ran over by a fellow racer. In spite, he picked himself up, torn bike and all to finish in sixth place.

Halfway through the season, Byarly holds the lead in point while Huddleston garners second place with Carter hanging tight in third; it looks to be an exciting second half.

**Many thanks go to Rich Thurman who helped contribute to the youth article.**