

Pirelli / Moose Racing / Maxxis

AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Youth Winter Hare Scramble Series

Round 9: Willow Creek Campground

FROMAN COOKS THE CAMPGROUND

BY DEBBIE ALLEN and Rich Thurman

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Willow Creek Campground fired up a different entrée for the Mid-South Cross Country Youth Championship Series. They lay aside their usual forte of horseback riding, and gave promoter, Bobby Thomas, friends and family members, free reign for the dirt bike scene. It proved nothing less than excellence for the Pirelli, Moose Racing, and Maxxis sponsored series.

By far, the best racing of the day was in the Mini B class. Two Indiana natives and fellow KTM riders **Jake Froman** and **Austin Lee** have been battling all season long, and the race at the horse farm was no different. Froman took charge and galloped his way into a stronger lead by winning his fifth race this season. Lee finished in second, and **Tyler Harris, Justin Lenard, and Cole Kirchoff** rounded out the top five in the Mini B class.

Off the start **Lee** grabbed an early lead and was pulling **Froman** by 16 seconds. **Froman**, not wanting to let a championship slip away, slowly reeled **Lee** back into view. On the second lap, **Lee's** lead slipped to six seconds apart, and they battled from knobby to knobby. Going into the final lap, **Froman** pressed in hard and jockeyed his way around **Lee** for a much needed win. No doubt, this battle will continue with three rounds to go.

In the Pewee 7 to 8 year old class, KTM / Sarge's Cycles / Motorex / Sixsixone / K100 backed **Samuel Thurman** nailed down his second AMA Mid-South Championship. This season has been awesome, claiming Willow Creek as his seventh win. Fighting a nasty virus and wondering if he would even race, he grabbed the holeshot and lead from start to finish, winning by almost two minutes.

"I am glad that's over," said Thurman. "Can I go lay down, now?"

Coming in second place was Moose sponsored rider **Jacob Pyne**. He has been right up there all season and gave **Thurman** an excellent battle for the championship, winning two races along the way.

From start to finish, Pyne held his own in second place for twelve laps. He trudged his way throughout a very slick course with "**Steady Ben**" **Jones, Drew Landers, and Cory Jordan** finishing in the top five.



Kawasaki racer **Michael Huddleston** proved his first three wins of the season were no fluke by winning round nine convincingly. He smoked them off of the start of the Junior A class and then just kept going, never having a challenge. **Tanner Byarly**, who currently holds the point's lead, came in second place. He mostly had trouble during his first lap and lost a lot of time, falling back to third place. During his second lap, he got around **Devin Walker**. KTM mounted Walker rounded out the podium with **Jeremiah "Billygoat" Bowman** coming in fourth and Honda mounted **Keith Dunning** finishing his best race of the season for fifth.

Brett Iott was cooking with oil in the Junior B class. He got off to a great start and simply got better. During his second lap, he claimed the fastest lap time. Then he proceeded to get faster and faster as he made his way into the A riders, passing Byarly through elapsed time.

Newcomer, **Anthony Wagler**, had a good ride with **Jacob Oliver** and **Dylan Majors**. They fought long and hard for six laps and finished the Junior B class in second, third, and fourth places while **Colin Brasher** got fifth.