

Pirelli / Moose Racing / Parts Unlimited / Maxxis AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship

Round 11: Big Bluff



Ashburn
Braggs BLUFF

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Cobb, Kentucky, April 7, 2008

Jordan Ashburn dug deep and laid another milestone into the pavement of his racing career. In Cobb, Kentucky, the eleventh round of the Mid-South Cross Country racing series, he entered the AA class and made Big Bluff's survival run look like it was easy picking. He finished it with a ten minutes' lead over Scott Summer's rookie, Gaordan Crockard who came in second place, and then he wrapped up a second place point's position, landing just two points shy of Jeff Cregg's Overall.

"I liked being in the AA class today," said Ashburn, "but I liked it better before when I had to catch them from the 250 A class. When you are the second class off the start, they pretty much lay out the trail for you. I guess it wasn't really much different today because I got a dead last start and had to catch up to them anyway."

Off the start, Cregg got the lead and raced on a higher level than the rest of the AA riders. Afterward, he simply checked out and by the seventh mile marker; he was two minutes ahead of Ashburn who was in second place.

Then an unfortunate thing happened. He got a flat tire. In spite, he managed to stay the frontrunner but his second lap proved otherwise. The bead broke and then the tire came off the rim. He DNF'd, giving Ashburn a trouble free ride into first place in Overall.

Ashburn said, "I am going to do all that I can to win the Overall and this only helps. I saw Cregg on the sidelines during the second lap and asked if he needed help. He said he didn't, so I left him."



Crockard and Seth Derryberry completed the podium of the Pirelli / Maxxis / Parts Unlimited / Moose challenge. They were very happy with their finish considering the tough terrain. Crockard got stuck and was really thankful for the sideline help of a few spectators while Derryberry (88) was pumped about the power from his KTM. He finished in first place in 250 A and third place in Overall while Jacob Patterson (2) got second in 250 A.

He said, "I really think my KTM gave me the momentum that I needed to take it to the front. I rode fast and was very careful about picking my lines. There were too many deep holes out there for you to do otherwise. I am really happy with my finish."



Jeremy McCord waits patiently for the course workers to grab him on the sweep lap.

For most everyone else, it was one tough track due to heavily saturated grounds from a two-week's bout of rain. The trail quickly became deeply rutted and parts were completely engulfing, leaving several riders on the sidelines waiting for the workers on the sweep lap.

Next race will definitely be down to the wire between Cregg and Ashburn as they fight to the finish for the coveted Championship Cup. Other racers who continue fighting for their championships include Bradley Sumner and Michael Williams for 300 4 Stroke C and Charles Cunningham and Eric Bowman in Senior B class.

My Own Race

John Maschino **3rd AA, 4th Overall**

Maschino (left) was thrilled at the chance to race another Mid-South mud run. He had a trouble free ride and finished the AA class in third place.

He said, "I've been too busy with family this year to focus on winning anything for points, but I couldn't resist coming out here for all of this fun. I love the mud."

Charles Cunningham **1st Senior B**

Charles Cunningham and Eric Bowman will also have a race to the finish. They only lag several points away from one another in the Senior B class, which will make it one exciting race between the two of them.



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Dunning Digs

DEEP
DEEP

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Cobb, Kentucky, April 7, 2007

While this year's Mid-South youth Champions have gone on to improved adventures, the view of those who remain changed and they got to see things from a different perspective, the front view and this time there was an added incentive, survival style.

Warm weather forecasts scattered with lots of sunshine has an inviting catch for the let us race theme. However, when heavy rains pour before the event, it brings home the reality that anything can happen while you are slip, sliding away. In spite, the youth riders of the Mid-South Cross Country racing series had a great time, and Keith Dunning, Blake Rinsch, Zachary Kirchoff, and Camden Feltner got a taste of their first wins for this season.

The first battle was between Dunning, Austin Brasher, and Chris Hobbs in the Junior A class. Off the start, Dunning got the holeshot with Brasher and Hobbs fighting from the rear. He stayed in the lead until Hobbs and Brasher got around him.

On the second lap, Hobbs taste for survival happened when he splashed through a mud section. The hole was deep and when he went through it, it splashed the seat right off of his bike, nice. The rest of the race was spent standing, fixing his seat, or holding it between his knees. He was no longer worried about his first place battle because now he was battling to stay afloat. He finished the eleventh round in third place while Dunning and Brasher came through ahead of him in first and second place.

On the first half, Dunning drifted back to third place and got around Hobbs when he was sifting through the mud feeling for his seat. Then he moved into first place when Brasher stalled his bike. Brasher finished in second place with Hobbs making an impressive third place finish. William Goodwin, Jordan Dallas and Tallon Swainson were also among those who were happy to go home with a plague.

Next battle was in the Mini A class between Rinsch, Cole Kirchoff, and Dalton Riddle. It started with Riddle getting the holeshot and ended with Rinsch taking a strong lead for first place.

“There was a bunch of roots, a bunch of rocks, and a whole lot of mud,” said Rinsch. “I almost wrecked a bunch of times, but I didn’t. Dalton was real close to me for most of the race, and I got by him when he wrecked.”

On their last lap, Kirchoff hit quite a few trees. He and Riddle had a tight battle for second place in the points' position, but Riddle admitted to it being a losing battle since the Obermeyer Yamaha, Scott USA, and Twin Air supported Kirchoff waited patiently for his chance to get around him. He got by Riddle when he was stuck on a hill and finished this event in second place.

Riddle said, "It was rough and rocky. When I crashed, my foot caught on a tree and my body kept going. That hurt bad. Then my bike hit my mouth, and I know parts of my bike are still out there."

The Pee Wee's also encountered a tight battle in the 7 -8 class. They were flying and held nothing back as they made eleven laps on a slick course. Kruz Sampson nested the holeshot and led for most of the race. He fell twice, giving the next three racers their chance at the podium. On the last lap, Zachary Kirchoff took over and finished the race in first place followed by Drew Landers, Ezra Darnell, and Sampson, this year's Pee Wee 4-6 Champion.
