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AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship

Round 4: Big Stripper



The Mullins Makeover

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Lynnville, Indiana, Nov 11, 2007

The Big Stripper has a way of turning heads, especially when the Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship opens its gate to a few national riders. Lynnville, Indiana, is always a better place when people like Charles Mullins and Kaillub Russell enter the race track.

While they admit to practice being their ulterior motive, everyone knows and understands that when push comes to shove and the green flag is raised, there is no practice about it. It's a race, and they are out to win just like everybody else.

Off the start, the racers in the AA class held nothing back as they kicked up a path of dust around the s-curves. Mullins [3] got the holeshot, racing his brand new; FMF Suzuki mounted make-over.

From start to finish, he was nothing less than amazing. His RM 250 allowed him to finish the first lap with two minutes lead. Likewise, he stayed out front, and finished the race with the LA Dirt Riders' Pro Purse, taking home an extra \$500.00 with KTM Team Mates Russell and Dustin Gibson [911] finishing in second and third places.

"It was a pretty fun race," said Mullins. "I got my bike yesterday, and I really appreciate Shane Nalley helping me with it."

Mullins continued his trouble free ride as the front runner well into the second lap. Yet his third lap, proved a little different as Gibson caught a glimpse of the lead. Mullins simply got slower and bobbed a few times while Gibson got into a good groove.

Mullins said, "I tried to pick up my pace on the last lap, but I just kept making a few mistakes and the lappers were really hard to get around. It was fun racing, and I'd like to come back again to get in a few more rides between now and the GNCC's. This was a good course, and I had a good time."

"The first lap I was way back," said Russell. "I tried passing people, but the track was real tight. It was a really fun course, but it was really technical; you could just shoot off the course anywhere."



Russell kind of meandered throughout the course and slowly but surely progressed to a safe haven in third place. He passed Gibson several times, but it was short lived; however, luckily for him it was short lived at just the right moment. A few turns from the finish, Russell outmaneuvered him in a corner and wedged himself into a second place finish with Gibson holding onto third.

Gibson said, “You can’t really feel bad when it’s a teammate. We had a good time, and I’m happy for him. I thought it was really cool listening to everybody cheering me on when I went by them.”



My Own Race:

Jordan Ashburn

250 A Winner

“I won today but about two or three miles in, I crashed and Ryan Mullins got around me. He led for the next two laps, and I got back around him when he stalled his bike.”

Darin Downs

250 B Winner

“I came off the start in third and it seemed like my bike wasn’t running right, so I had to pull over and check it out. That put me in last place, so I got back in there and got the lead by the

end of the first lap. After that, I didn’t see anyone else in my class. I thought the track was rough, but I just stayed in there and hung in there and pulled it out.”

Craig Morgan

Senior B Winner

“There were some places back there where all I could say was, ‘Oh Jesus, oh Jesus, oh Jesus! It was fun and this is probably my favorite track.”

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AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Youth Motorsports Championship

Round 4 The Big Stripper



Froman Full Throttle

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Lynnville, Indian, Nov 11, 2007

If there is one thing said about the youth riders of the Mid-South Cross Country Series, it is that they learn quickly from previously made mistakes. The winners of the Big Stripper in Lynnville, Indiana, seemed to have slowed down a little bit to go faster. In Junior A and B, Jeremiah Bowman and Jake Froman managed to stay in control and pull into victory lane with more ease simply by being careful.

While Bowman owns the current winning streak in Junior A class, Froman broke the Junior B, three way tie between he and Logan P'Pool and Jake Lewis. He was full throttle once he got the lead, and he was unstoppable as he made his way around a course that was made for men.

“After I passed all of the lappers,” said MSR / Scott / Chad and Brook backed Froman, “I was just hauling. The track was pretty gnarly and it was hard. It was just so rocky, ruddy, and rooty, so you just had to watch out for everything.”

And, watch he did. Midway through the race, things started clicking for the Indiana native. P'Pool went down on a hill and the rest was history.

He said, “I got Logan when he crashed on the hill, and I just started passing people. There were a lot of lappers and about five other riders in front of me, so I just got around them and stayed in the lead. It was fun, and I liked to thank my Mom and Dad for helping me.”

Blake Ricketts also had a lackadaisical first couple of laps, but he made use of Froman's energy and charged from his rear until Froman [62] cut loose and went full throttle. Ricketts [61] stepped up his pace and got into a good momentum the last few laps. He finished the race in second place with Luke Chilman, Brett Iott, and Jake Lewis taking the rest of the top five positions.

Meanwhile Bowman was charging ahead of them, winning the Junior A class. He eased up on his tension in order to gain more ground and make fewer mistakes. He had a smoother ride and when he got the lead, he maintained it with the help of his pit crew and dad, Eric Bowman, who edged him on.

“My dad told me to pick it up out there,” said Bowman, “because Chris [Hobbs] was gaining on me, so I did.”

Bowman finished his race with thirty seconds lead on Hobbs who took home second place while Dylan Majors and Jacob Oliver followed in third and fourth place.

“It was really rough out there,” said Oliver [65]. “You had to stand up the whole race, and my legs are really hurting now☺.”

In spite, the majority of the youth riders are plugging away with much to gain. Through the years, they have gained more riding ability and are performing much better due to their perseverance and the consistent efforts of the Mid-South promoters providing fun, yet challenging courses.

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone

