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AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship

Round 6: Little Egypt's Offroad Motorcycle Club



Ashburn Almighty

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

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Little Egypt's Offroad Motorcycle Club held the sixth round of the Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship in Marion, Illinois. They did an excellent job at creating a great course. It consisted of ten miles of grass tracks, hill climbs, and open

woods sections, but there was only one problem. Rain, and it was not just a little; it was an all day gully washer, which ultimately became an old fashion survival run.

With so much rain in the forecast, most Mid-South riders stayed home in the beds, while the remaining halfheartedly decided to take on the challenge and challenge it was as everyone slid through the thick stuff. It was an interesting finish with KTM taking home the podium as Jordan Ashburn, Cory Buttrick, and Chase Bishop made up the overall, winning each of their classes.

With all eyes on the AA class, who knew that Ashburn, 250 A's frontrunner, would take top honors. He was smooth, almost floating through the grime, but everyone's thoughts were on AA.

Ashburn said, "I love the mud! What can I say? I know most hate it, but I love it. It was so much fun out there."



It all started as a battle between Broc Sims (561), Cory Buttrick (121), and Dustin Gibson each sharing in AA's lead. Sims led seven other riders into the holeshot curve and into the first, half of the track until Gibson moved into the lead from his dead last start. They were flying in spite of the quagmire. When Gibson stopped for goggles and Sims stopped for gas, their lead ended and Buttrick cut loose.

"Once I got into the lead, I just

pushed as hard as I could for a couple of laps and tried to build up a good gap,” said PG Graphics / Sports Cycle / Pirelli / Enduro Engineering backed Buttrick. “I think on the last lap, I had a little over a minute on them, but Ashburn reeled me in for the win. All in all it was a good race, and I was happy with no big mistakes.”



Meanwhile Gibson (left) held strong in third place while Jeff Cregg moved into second place and was about to pass Buttrick for the lead. However, mud in his eyes forced him to take an impressive fourth place finish while Buttrick and Gibson got first and second place and Sims finished in third place for the AA class.

Forty seconds after Buttrick finished, Ashburn came through, taking overall in elapsed time and winning the 250 A class. He dug a little deeper on his last lap and won. In his class, he was number one right off of the start, but he was not the only one. Bishop too had an excellent race in the Light A class. He passed Logan Chilman shortly after the start, and then just kept getting faster and faster. In the end, Bishop moved into third place in Overall.

Little Egypt was definitely one of those times when the struggle became the thrill and bragging rites were gained simply for the finish, and of course, making the win was ever so sweet. In the B class, Darin Downs, Chris Allen, Kyle Greer, Brandon Wofford, Chris Huddleston, and Eric Bowman claimed those rites wholeheartedly by winning their classes.



Likewise, Adrian Forkum (11) and Mick Bryant (Below Right) were forthright in claiming those rites. Forkum was not only the first around the 250 C holeshot curve, but he was also the last. Luckily, he finished in third place, just under Brandon Rinsch and Eric Fitzpatrick. In addition, Mr. Bryant, well you can see his struggles below. However he must have ridden impressively somewhere because he got second in Open 4 Stroke C with Paul Ward coming in as the winner. **Merry Christmas Everyone**



Yikes!

