

Pirelli / Moose Racing / Parts Unlimited / Maxxis

AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship

Round 7: Southeast Cross Country Shootout.



DUVALL TAKES TRIPLE

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

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It is always a pleasure to have a great starting line-up at any race, so when twenty-five plus riders entered the Pro class of the **Mid-South Cross-Country Racing, SERA, SETRA** series, things perked up a little more than usual. **Barry Hawk, Thad Duvall, Jason Raines, Garrett Edminsten, Josh Weisenfels, and Scott Watkins** were among some of those to take on the **Pirelli, Parts Unlimited, Moose, and Maxxis** challenge, and promoters from the **Perry Mountain Motorcycle Club** were willing to give it their best to make the annual **Southeast Cross Country Shootout** one spectacular race.

Duvall held nothing back in Maplesville, Alabama. On his first encounter with the triple sanctioned event, he cut loose and went full throttle. While out front, he took advantage of Hawk's dilemma and charged the lead to take first place in Overall.

"I got a decent start," said Duvall, "and kind of got in my own pace and stayed by myself for a long time. I knew Barry was out front, but something happened."

Off the start, Hawk [2] gained the lead quickly and left everyone. Unfortunately, for him, he got off course, skipping a major portion of the track. During his second lap, track officials made him complete the missed portion twice to even the odds, which brought things back to normal.

Well, at least presumably normal, if you consider a GNCC Pro Lite's member leading a national winner

normal. Duvall swooped into a forty seconds lead during the second lap with Hawk battling in second place while Edminsten and Weisenfels were going at it from behind them.



A fast, paced course held a fair amount of grime due to three inches of snow from Saturday morning's race. This, plus more led to a demanding eleven miles of sandy sludge, making it one nasty ride for the first couple of laps; however, toward the end it tacked up nicely for great competition.

“The track was perfect; I mean it could not have been any better for the conditions that we had out here. I was kind of by myself from start to the finish, just trying to get in shape for the GNCC’s,” said Am Pro / Morgantown Yamaha / Shoei / Deluge / Pro Taper backed Duvall.



Meanwhile, the battle for second was tense. Each held his own and kept a good distance from the other until one would make a mistake. Edminsten [left] was just waiting for a chance to gain, but Hawk held onto a tight grip for second until right before the finish, he slipped-up and fell into a mud hole, giving Edminsten an opening. Shortly thereafter, he took an inside line and maneuvered second place while Hawk soared into third.

Edminsten was fast but not totally without flaw. He too had a few blips from his past to overcome. While going down a hill at a fast pace, he sideswiped a tree and ricocheted over the bars. This set him back a while, but he shook it off just in time to stay ahead of Weisenfels.

“Once I fell Josh just wouldn’t let me out of his sight,” said Edminsten. “We just cruised together at a real hard pace. We

had a lot of fun and the track was nice a tacky and sliding through the turns was really nice.”

Hawk [2] said, “Everybody here, all the SERA, SETRA, and Mid-South people did a really good job. They are all really nice and friendly, and I’m looking forward to coming back next year. Sure, I wished I could have done better, but I’m healthy and fun and that’s really what matters.”



. My Own Race:



Josh Weisenfels

4th Place

“I tried to catch up to Barry,” said Weisenfels, “but I don’t think that was a real smart move because I got real tired from not racing in a long time.”

Scott Watkins [Left]

7TH Place

“Well, I think I was the last person off of the starting line, but I rode good and came from the back of the pack all day. I ended up in seventh. I guess I am still a little rusty, working off some of those cob webs, but I’ll just keep plugging away on some of the best product out there.”
