

# Pirelli / Moose Racing / Parts Unlimited / Maxxis

AMA / Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship

Round 9: Hazzard Hill



## The Ashburn Assault

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Vanleer, Tennessee, Feb, 24, 2008

**J**ordan Ashburn did it again, and this time he left no room for excuse. Like a bullet in the 250 A class, he maneuvered the holeshot and then quickly penetrated the expert arena. By the end of the first lap, he was like a rocket, leading everyone else into Victory Lane.

“I won Overall!” said Ashburn. “I was just picking off the pros and I knew when I saw Cregg, I was up there. He bobbed and made a mistake in a rut, and I just passed him right before the scoring tent.

The Power Sport Graphics / Performance Super Cycles / EVS / Scott / KTM Hard Parts took the lead early, and then the rest of his ride was flawless. At seventeen years old, the Cookeville, Tennessee, native stayed in the lead and finished with two and a half minutes lead over second place, the current point’s leader, Jeff Cregg [pictured right].

Ashburn said, “I liked the track; the new trail flowed really well, and I did not have any problems. I didn’t fall, and there weren’t really any lappers.”

Ashburn maneuvered his KTM 250 like a Pro and fortunately for him, his Dad David was on hand to make sure of it. Minutes before the start, he shifted into mechanic’s mode, pulling the gas tank off to reroute his throttle cable. Ironically, he fixed the stuck throttle just in time to hold it wide open for the green flag and to begin his massive hunt for first place in overall.

“I didn’t see anybody the entire first lap,” said Cregg, “and all of a sudden he was riding past me. He was on it, and I finally had to let him go because there was nothing I could do to keep up with him. Jordan was fast and smooth and he’s really just beginning.”



No matter, Cregg's goal is for the championship, and he is not going to let anything get in his way of winning it. He wanted to secure the AA win and stay ahead of the game for his point's lead. He did. Now, he is one-step closer at becoming the Mid-South Cross Country's Overall Champion. Knock on wood, landing the podium for the next three races, and it will be hats off to his long-term goal of being a Mid-South Champion.

He said, "I did get the money, so my wife will be happy with the \$1,000 that I'm getting from Suzuki and Paul Allen, the promoter of this race. Other than that, I had a good ride, and I'm happy for Jordan."

Four Stroke A was the next class to pack a powerful punch with Sean Gentry [17] and Mike Sampson [747] fighting for the podium. From start to finish, Gentry took a strong lead while Sampson gave him some tough battles.

On the last lap, Sampson was in third place in overall until he stalled his bike and had trouble getting it started, giving Gentry just enough time to catch up and make the pass.

Gentry said, "I just charged as hard as I could and caught him. Then the adrenaline just started pumping and once I got by him, I just took it to the finish line."



Gentry got third place on the podium and won his class while Sampson came in five seconds later, taking fourth place in overall and second in 4 Stroke A.

## My Own Race

David McWilliams

Vet A Winner

Off and on, David McWilliams [5] has been racing the Pirelli, Parts Unlimited, Moose, and Maxxis challenge for many years. In Vanleer, Tennessee, he finally pulled off a win and said, "This was most excellent."



P.A. Allen

Just Having Fun Film Crew

P.A. Allen, reigning Overall Champion of the Mid-South Hare Scramble Series, was charmed into wearing the JHF helmet cam. He saw some great footage like AA's John Robbins taking a major dive. Unfortunately, it was for his eyes only because the card was full. Sometimes we have to take the duds with the fluffies. We will try it again next stop:



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## Hobb's Hazzard Hill Hoorah

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BY DEBBIE ALLEN

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**C**hris Hobbs must have grabbed a second wind for his end of the season rides because he was hot and riding the Mid-South Cross Country Youth series with a completely new outlook.

The Kawasaki mounted Shumate backed winner came on strong at the third round of the Pirelli, Moose, Parts Unlimited, and Maxxis sponsored series, placing second at each race, directly behind Junior A's points leader, Jeremiah Bowman.



Chris Hobbs overtakes lapper to gain some ground on current Mid-South youth Champion, Jeremiah Bowman in Vanleer, Tennessee.

Then at the last race, he must have pushed a power button because he simply checked out of second place and pulled his first win for the season. Next race, Hazzard Hill, he did it again, which is definitely one role that he would like to continue.

“It was crazy!” said Hobbs. “I was the third rider off of the start and by the time I reached the woods, I passed the KTM rider and then Jeremiah and I battled the whole race. He was rudest [meaning awesome?], and he fought a good race.”

Not far behind, Bowman struggled with this newfound position in second place. All season long from the start and up until the seventh round, he wore out the checkered flag, claiming first place for each race.

Now, eight rounds later, Hobbs was in charge. He got by Bowman directly after the score tent and tucked it to the inside to grab the lead. He made some great passes getting around the lappers and finished the race with only seconds to spare. On the start, he whipped around a downed KTM rider and continued weaving in and out of anyone in his path with ease.

“We only have a few more races,” said Bowman, “and Chris is such an aggressive rider. He’s really good, and who knows, if he keeps doing this, he might be champion.”

Not likely and doing the math could prove otherwise. Bowman has seven wins under his belt while Hobbs only has two and there are three races left in the season with four throw a ways.

Other riders were also chomping at the bit to clench their Championships. Jake Froman in Junior B and Kruz Sampson in Pee Wee 4-6 boasted a final win to claim top honors as a Champion in their classes. They rode strong on a tough course filled with all of the challenges that a champion could face. The track was not much different from any other Mid-South race. It was slick and rutty, but they whipped it in gear, making it their last win for the season in their classes.

**Samuel Thurman and Lee Austin also enjoyed pleasures in a new realm. After winning the Pee Wee 7-8 Championship at the last round, Thurman charged up his KTM in the Mini B class and won it. He led everyone in his class the entire time and was shy four places from the Mini A class win, amazing! Austin, well he enjoyed a different adventure. He stayed at home in the bed, dreaming about that big six-foot trophy that he will be getting at the banquet, which will be held at the Wild Horse Saloon in Nashville, Tennessee.**