

Pirelli Moose Racing Maxxis

AMA MID-SOUTH CROSS COUNTRY ATV MOTORSPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP



Ballance Banks Pro Action

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

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Off the start, twenty racers bottlenecked their way onto a nine-mile track. Ockerman took the lead, three or four miles in, bent his front end, and lost control. That slowed him down, but the Yamaha / GT Thunder / IMS / Rekluse / Mom and Dad mounted Ockerman still had enough momentum to finish the first lap in first place with **Mitch Craig** and Ballance beating on his back door.

The Mid-South Cross Country ATV Motorsports Championship got off to a great start at the second round in Crofton, Kentucky. With warm skies greeting everyone, great racing simply got better, especially with **Bill Ballance**, **Donnie Ockerman**, and the rest of the Mid-South Pros in the mix. Things suddenly went from great to Wow.



“It was a good race, good track, and good conditions,” said Ballance. “Donnie put in a really good ride, and we had a pretty good battle about half way through the second lap. It was an inside line for me, and he took the outside line. I got around him and that was it. He stayed pretty close but never did get back around me.”



Ballance promised a few more visits throughout some of the winter events and wanted to thank the good Lord, first and foremost; as well as Team Yamaha / Maxxis / Moose.

“It was pretty much Bill and me all day,” said Ockerman (17). “Jody [Estes] put in a good ride and caught up toward the end. I had to slow down to keep second, but we all stayed there as one, two, three. This is my first race for the season, and I signed up for points, so I’m ready for this season to begin.”

Jody Estes finished, completing the podium respectively in third place. He also has one win under his belt making him the top Mid-South rider for this season. WKC Motorsports / Offroad Connection / Spider Grips backed Estes had a bad start, getting caught in the quagmire at the bottleneck. After shaking off his dilemma, he rode with Mitch Craig, Kaiser, and the rest of the guys, wishing for just one more lap.

Meanwhile, **Craig Reed**, Mid-South's current Champion, has not been at his best so far. He took fifth at the first round and maneuvered his first throwaway, finishing in seventeenth place for this round, which is typically his style and makes great racing under pressure.

Within the Pro Am realm, Aarol Bright got his first taste for a win. He impressed everyone with his 8th place in Overall finish. This plus his podium finish in third place makes him the top dog of the Pro Amateur arena. Racing a KTM, he will definitely be someone to keep an eye for this season.

David Jones and **Dennis Switzer** were among the A class winners while **Chris Jones**, **Marshal Glass**, **William McAnally**, **Richard Stanley**, and **Randy Mink** were the winners of the B classes; and **James Manor**, **David Hines**, **Blair Pageg**, and **Lance Lewis** headed up the Novice.

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