

# Pirelli Moose Racing Maxxis

## AMA Mid-South Cross Country Motorsports Championship/ SERA / SETRA Triple Sanction

### SOUTHEAST CROSS COUNTRY SHOOTOUT

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

# Mullins Mans the Mid-South



Maplesville, Alabama, January 10, 2009

**C**harles Mullins may not have asked for the perfect ride at the Southeast Cross Country Shootout, but that is exactly what he got. On a near perfect day, he aimed high and set his sights for Overall. Two hours later, the Mid-South Cross Country, SERA, and SETRA Triple Sanctioned event was his for the taking, claiming the Pro Purse garnered from twenty-one riders as his prize.



He said, "I spent a lot of time in Florida, trying to get ready for the GNCC's, so it's good to be here, racing Mid-South is really what I needed. The track was awesome; it felt good to be back on the mud after spending so much time on the sand."

While his start may not have been his best, it most likely was the wisest on the Maplesville, Alabama track. The hole shot curve claimed more than one rider gunning for the same turn, but once they cleared the trail, Mullins was off and running as the lone rider to leave the start.

"I really don't know when I got the lead," said Mullins. "I was just really riding my own race and enjoying the trail. I had to make a lot of passes on the first lap. It was rooty, and I just really liked it."



Jordan Ashburn [21] shakes his hole shot dive, but retrieves second place at the Southeast Cross Country Shoot Out in Maplesville, Alabama.

Somewhere on the first lap, Mullins got the lead and made four laps out front. While he said he made a few mistakes during his second lap, he quickly recovered because the rest of his race showed no ill effects. He rode smooth and his Mid-South racing fans simply adored him, and why not. He is really a nice guy

with high hopes for a great future who backs it with dedication and wins. This go round, he finished with three minutes lead over Jordan Ashburn who got second place in Overall.

Unlike Mullins, Ashburn felt more than one dose of pain. Off the start, he was the first rider to make the curve but also was the first one to see the dirt. He went down and captured some great helmet cam footage along the way. (I want that footage, Jordan☺) Then after a good crash, his bark buster dangled in all of the wrong places, making mince meat on a whacked out hand.

He said, “I finally had to pull over and tell my dad to take this thing off. It was whipping around and hitting my hand constantly. The last lap, I thought I was about to die. My foot was killing me, but I kept going and finished in second place. Hopefully, this will put me ahead in points.”



Ashburn earned his second place victory by sheer perseverance. Not to mention a great battle with SERA’s number one rider, Cliff Ousley. They were on it, back and forth until Ashburn dug a little deeper, felt the rhythm of his Monster Energy / Kawasaki / Pro Circuit / Moose / Fastway backed ride, and pulled away.



Ousley topped the SERA riders and finished next. He had a great ride, enjoyed the lead during portions of the first lap, and actually finished it without even looking like he rode at all, CLEAN.

He said, “I got the lead and tried to check out, but well, you know. How can you battle with Mullins? I tried, and it was fun but didn’t last. Then I did the same with Ashburn; he just checked out, too.”

To see photos and interviews of this event, visit <http://justhavingfun.smugmug.com/>

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