

Pirelli Moose Racing Maxxis

AMA MID-SOUTH CROSS COUNTRY MOTORSPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP
BEAR HOLLOW



Ashburn Bags Bear

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

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A long day... is one way to describe the ninth round of the Mid-South Cross Country series. That is unless you happen to be Jordan Ashburn or Chase Bishop. They seemingly had the advantage, claiming the home court turf was near their back yards; they plowed into the brutal conditions, which seemed to cripple everyone else in Livingston, Tennessee. They finished the race with five laps notched into their belts while everyone else got in a meager three laps or less.

Not only did Ashburn race to win, but he also played it cool with his usual dead last start. With his nonchalant attitude, he avoided most of the roosts that everyone else faced. From there, he picked everyone off and gained the lead by the end of the first lap.

Ashburn said, "I came in today, hoping for a win, and I guess I got it. It was two miles an hour, picking your way through one, big mud hole, and there was nobody left. I saw Dustin on the side of the trail on the third lap. He just gave me a thumb's up, and everyone else, I don't know what happened to them, so I just rode it out."

Like Ashburn, Bishop was not far behind and the two pulled away for the next two laps. During the third lap, Bishop hit a stump and laid his brake pedal out of place. Then on his next lap, he crashed again and bent it all the way under, making it one interesting ride for his finish. He scathed in second place with no one in the AA class following.

MSR, Performance Super Cycle, Cycra backed Bishop said, "I thought it was a fun track and it was sort of a survival run. Jordan got around me when I crashed out on a downhill. Then he started to pull away when I crashed on my third lap and bent my brake pedal. On my next to last lap, it bent all the way underneath my foot peg, so I lost a lot of time in the end."

While most stayed the course throughout the first lap, several DNF'd quite early. In all, nearly fifty bikes could not finish it. The hills were tough causing several bottlenecks and a slow pace. Other





problems occurred with unforeseen rocks and stumps that lie just beneath the snow, causing crashes and bike problems.

Jeff Cregg and PA Allen finished their third laps, taking third and fourth places in the AA class while Dustin Gibson left the track in tow. Both Cregg and Allen lost their clutches but were able to finish out the lap. Gibson was not so lucky. He was thankful for the people who hauled him out.

Meanwhile, ten riders in A classes made one additional lap. Shane Obanion, Dillion Phelps, and Jordan Johns got the top honors as they finished the race in the top five places in overall.

Kyle Miller, Tyson Ezell, Chris Huddleston, Harvey Whitaker, Beau Nicewinter, and Josh Siegel were the remaining A class riders to complete four laps, and John Chaille was the lone B rider to finish four laps.
