



## Mid-South Cross Country

Round 1: Lakeview Lodge

# Gibson Wets the Lakeview Whistle

**White Plains, Kentucky, October 4, 2009**

BY DEBBIE ALLEN



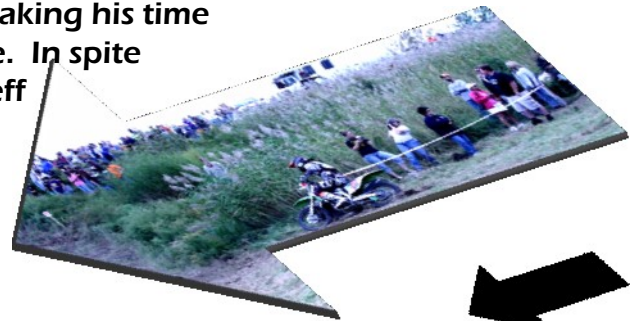
**Do** you know what causes a Mid-South Cross Country ruckus?

That's easy; it's water, and lots of it. Long story short: you know there's a problem when arrows disappear from rising water, so with that in mind, the Robert Rogers and Paul Allen crew was forced to abandon and reroute two and a half miles of trail for MSXC's thirtieth season opener. Their efforts may have gone

unnoticed, but it was well worth the early morning fix-up because 545 racers enjoyed the Pirelli, Answer, MSR, Pro Taper, and Maxxis event in White Plains, Kentucky.



Likewise; Dustin Gibson (Pictured right) also made a whole lot of hard work seem easy. He rode like a well seasoned pro, taking his time learning the trail and then giving his all for the prize. In spite of a dead last start, he caught up to frontrunners, Jeff Cregg and Jake Fiddler and rode with them for the first three laps. At first, he would get the lead and then lose it, simply waiting for that smoother ride. Somewhere near the end, he got it and scathed his last bottleneck and pulled a two minute lead.



"I'd get out front," said BHR backed Gibson, "and just wasn't feeling right, so I would let those guys by me. I know there were some good places and some bad spots out there, but you had to choose your lines wisely and they weren't my problem. I just didn't feel right. I finally felt comfortable and just checked out."



Fiddler (4) also had a really, good ride finishing in second place in overall. Like Gibson, his start was near the back of the pack and he worked his way up to the lead fairly quickly. His main problem was getting through bottlenecks and riders who couldn't maneuver the mud bogs. He said that it was hard because you never knew where they would slide

and that they were so unpredictable. Fortunately for Fiddler, he was fast and charged past many throughout the straight-a-ways, allowing his Monster Energy Kawasaki, Answer Racing, and Johnny Signs support ride to finish the race with a very impressive second place podium finish.

He said, "I am really happy with my finish in second today. I had fun and I know what I have to do to get better, so that's what I am going to do. I definitely am planning on racing the series this season. It's a good series, and I like it."

The next rider was Heavy A winner, Darin Downs. After getting the hole shot, he hit the grass track full speed, held it loose, catching up to a AA champion, Jeff Cregg by his first lap.

"I just kept charging all day and when I caught Cregg, I just knew it was a good day because he is pretty damn fast! I just kept pushing and pushing and finished in third place in overall."

Unfortunately for Cregg, his struggles were a little more unbearable. Cracked ribs and stuck in deep mud caused his two minute delay. In spite, he did very well considering his turmoil. He vows to be ready for the next round.

"I just kept getting stuck behind the lappers and mud," said Pro Action and S & S Power Sports backed Jeff Cregg. "I got hung up real bad with mud all the way up to the seat on my third lap and fell back to about fifth. After that, I put my head down, charged, and made it to third place."

Last but not least to make the top five was Michael Williams. He didn't know what to do with this new experience as a rookie A rider, but he quickly figured it out by making fifth place in overall.

Hats off to other A riding winners. David McWilliams, Greg Elrod, and David Smithson. The fastest B riders were Girk Richards, Trevor Ezell, Jeremy Newland, Brandon Rinsch, Roger Spires, Robert Jordan, and Bill Boyd. Marty Thacker, Stan Taylor, Cody Christensen, James Davidson, Austin Toan, Troy Kirby, Myron Graves, Kent Stanley, Dalton Cross, and Jerad Mangrum were charging quickly in Masters and beyond.

Brett lott was quick to overcome a bad 300 4 Stroke C start. In full spectator view, he took the straight-a-way and traversed the hill, only to be side-winded by fellow rider. This dropped him back about fifteen spots, but no problem this long time Mid-South racer. He made up for his losses with a good comeback for a second place finish. James Davidson got first place while Mark Hallings got third place.

