



Mid-South Cross Country

CYCLE NEWS CONTRIBUTION

Round 2: Seven Creeks



# Morgan Masters Ashburn Assaults

Cadiz, Kentucky, October 18, 2009



Craig Morgan Masters Mid-South



BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Seven Creeks splashed up a few treats for Mid-South Cross Country's second round. One included a nine mile loop with steep hills, tight woods, and gnarly creek crossings, creating a videographer's haven for film makers. Unfortunately for several, nationwide coverage for Craig Morgan's upcoming show might let everyone know that some riders definitely picked the wrong line.

Not for Craig, he picked all the right ones, so this country music star will be shining brightly for this episode of *ALL ACCESS OUTDOORS*, his brand new show on GAC Outdoor Channel, is scheduled to start in the summer of 2010. He not only shimmied through the creeks but also found the checkered flag before anyone else in his class. Right before the finish, Craig moved into first place when he snuck by Roger Strong who got second. Bob Pullman, Greg Tucker, and Dillon Pirtle finished out the top five.

"I don't think I have ever had so much fun in all of my life," said Craig. "I battled with Roger the entire race, and I can't believe I got around him right before the finish. That's just the icing on the cake because this guy is fast, the track was fun, and the race was great! I can't wait for the next one."

This year, Craig entered Super Senior B and will no doubt have great finishes if he continues this routine. He has an impressive fifth place in points which has one win to his credit and a DNF due to engine troubles. This will most likely make things more of a challenge, but his finish today shows that he is up for it.

Being the first to leave the start, the AA riders encountered one trick right off the hole shot curve. It was a slick, S-curve and lucky



Jordan

Ashburn,

Mid-South's current champion, was the first to wrestle it.



## Mid-South Cross Country

Four laps later, he was the second person to claim a win for this season. Dustin Gibson was the first, and he took the first round by storm, making himself Jordan's main competition thus far.

"I'm glad I got that over with," said Ashburn. "The bike just slid out from under me, and that was the end of it. The rest of my day was much better. I got around everyone, or they let me go around them. I know Dustin was having trouble, and he was one of the riders who let me by him."

*Jordan Ashburn takes Seven Creeks four minutes lead.*

Ashburn could not have asked for a better ride. It was really trouble free outside of the brief moment at the start. He was out front and moving faster than anyone the entire time, and he finished four minutes in the lead.



While most expected a battle between the two, it was not happening here. Unlike Ashburn, it was hard for Gibson to race once his brake shoes fell apart. He crawled into the Score Machine™ twelve minutes and thirty-four seconds after Ashburn. He went from first to last and then simply meandered for a seventh place finish, giving Chase Bishop, Jake Fiddler, Tristin Referrin, and Nathan Alering a better glimpse at the top five.

*Chase Bishop, 30, finishes Seven Creeks in second place.*

After three kicks, Bishop made his way through the pack, picking off one RACER at a time. By the beginning of the second lap, he was making a move for Ashburn, or so he thought.



"It was really Jake Fiddler," said Bishop. "I thought I was setting my sights on Jordan, but once I got a closer look, I noticed that Jake's Answer gear was the same color as Ashburn's. I was a little disappointed because I never saw him [Ashburn] after the start."

On the second lap, the Johnny Signs MSR Smith backed Bishop moved into second place. He passed Fiddler when he bobbled going up a hill. Afterward, he tried to catch Ashburn but was unable to keep up with his pace.

Answer supported Fiddler said, "I had a good ride, today. It was fun, and I always enjoy a Mid-South track. It had a good mix, and there were only a few bad spots if you didn't pick the right line."

