

MSXC AMA Youth Cross Country Championship by Pirelli / Answer / MSR / Pro Taper / Maxxis

Round 3: Battle of Iuka
Harris Haunts Iuka
By Rich Thurman
Photo by Deb Allen
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Round Three started as all other rounds so far this year have started with 6 inches of rainfall early Friday morning and into the evening hours. Only this time the rain would not dampen the Halloween spirits that came out for trick or treat on Saturday night. They made their rounds from RV to RV looking for something sweet to eat before settling in to a candy induced coma disguised as sleep.

Sunny skies greeted the MSXC youth as they traded their scary faces for race faces Sunday morning. Landon Morrison, from Clarksville Tennessee, was the first off the line and snagged the MSXC holeshot in the Mini B class. He was followed closely by Cobra mounted Kruz Sampson, Leighton Tittle, Zach Kirchoff and Matthew Harris. Mounting his attack on a Suzuki, Morrison pounded the mud-filled course on lap one and stretched his lead by a minute over Tittle, Kirchoff and Harris. After laps two and three Morrison seemed to have an insurmountable lead on the pack and the race would surely be his.



Pictured above, # 188 Performance Supercycles/KTM rider **Matthew Harris**, had other intentions though. He began an all out charge for Morrison that pushed him through Sampson, Tittle and Kirchoff and with time winding down he was within striking distance of Morrison. The white flag came out and Morrison now was only a few seconds ahead of Harris who had made up almost two minutes in the 30 minute race. All eyes from both camps of parents waited to see who would emerge from the woods in the lead. Harris sliced through

the trees and now he had a few precious seconds of time between he and Morrison and most importantly, the lead. Only a few more turns and a small wooded section was left. As both racers hit the final straightaway, Harris had done was seemed to be impossible, He had won his first race of the season and was the new series points leader in the mini B class after three rounds.

After the race Harris said: "Man it was muddy. There were lots of ruts and roots to get stuck on. That was a good race between me and Landon. I am sure glad I won though!"

In the Peewee 50 cc 7 to 8 year old division, Bowling Greens Kentucky's Daniel Spurgeon put in 5 strong laps aboard his Cobra for the win. He was closely followed by KTM rider Cole Echols , who came from Hot Springs Arkansas to attend the mudfest and "little g" Garrett Elrod out of Oakland Kentucky clawed his way into third place.

Results:

Peewee (4-6): 1. Dylan Proffitt (Cob); 2. Caleb Echols (KTM); 3. Kiala Rakestraw (Yam); 4. Austin Sullivan (Yam)

Peewee (7-8): 1. Daniel Spurgeon(Cob); 2. Cole Echols (KTM); 3. Garrett Elrod (Cob); 4. Nathan McCoy (KTM); 5. Jeremy Lenard (KTM)

Mini A 1. Sam Thurman (KTM); 2. Kaleb Hagan (KTM); 3. Ben Jones (Kaw); 4. Cory Jordan (KTM); 5. Dillon Bryant (Suz)

Mini B 1. Matthew Harris (KTM); 2. Landon Morrison (Suz); 3. Zach Kirchoff (Kaw); 4. Leighton Tittle (KTM); 5. Kruz Sampson (Cob)

Junior A 1. Brandon Gourley (Kaw); 2. Austin Lee(KTM); 3. Luke Chilman (Kaw); 4. Jake Froman (Kaw); 5. Lance Hoover (KTM)

Junior B 1. Dalton Riddle (Suz); 2. Andrew Clark (KTM); 3. Hunter Hutchinson (KTM); 4. Kelly Adkins (YAm); 5. Cole Kirchoff (Yam)