



Round 7 MSXC Youth Winter Series

Hutchinson Hauls in Saulsbury

By Rich Thurman

Photo by Deb Allen

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Round 7 of the Mid-South Youth Cross Country Series by Pirelli/Answer/MSR/Pro Taper/Maxxis was held on the border of Tennessee and Mississippi at the Saulsbury Farm. After three inches of rain two nights before the race, most of the racers thought this was going to be a "mudder" for sure. With temperatures in the high 50 degree range, the ground was also thawing from a deep freeze a few days before. All this coupled together with a fresh track would mean ruts big enough to swallow a 85 , let alone a 65 cc machine. Then the storms moved in on Saturday night. Thunder, lightning , high winds and a tornado warnings were out and the RV's were swaying back and forth limiting a goods nights sleep for those staying at the farm. When Sunday morning dawned, the water table had risen substantially and seemed to be at the steps of most of the campers there.



**Hunter Hutchinson # 007** pictured above, like his spy counterpart Bond, seemed to like the impossible conditions. Off the start, the KTM mounted Hutchinson went into the woods in second behind Tanner McCoy, who got the holeshot. McCoy got passed by Andrew Clark and Yamaha rider Kelly Adkins on lap one. Adkins pushed into the early lead but got stuck in a rut.

Hutchinson got by Adkins and as they finished their brutal first lap, Hutchinson was in the lead followed by Adkins, McCoy and Clark. Adkins was only 3 seconds behind and the battle was on. Hutchinson said " Kelly ( Adkins) and I battled alot on the second lap and raced together until we both got stuck in the same mudhole. I got out first and was able to gain some time on him. " Clark had a very good second lap and found his way around both Adkins and McCoy and now had his sights on Hutchinson. Both Hutchinson and Clark are from the same town, go to school together and would fight the rest of the race for Monday morning bench-racing bragging rights.

Clark struggled on lap one crashing twice in the mud and after the race said, " After the second lap I tried to not get stuck anywhere and just ride smart. It was awful out there and the ruts were deep."

As the checkered flag fell Hutchinson was the 5th different winner in seven rounds and the points race for the championship could go six different ways right now. Clark has a slim lead over McCoy, round six winner Blake Rinsch, Adkins, Dalton Riddle and the rest of the Junior B class. Clark's race strategy paid off with a solid second place finish on the day. Clark did give school bragging rights to the Go-Pro/RMW Machine-works backed Hutchinson though till the next race. Hopefully they will finish homework and get their gear and bikes ready for round eight February 21st in Camden Tennessee.

P/W 4-6 1. Dylan Proffitt (Cob)

P/W 7-8 1. Daniel Spurgeon (Cob); 2. Nathan McCoy (KTM); 3. Garrett Elrod ( KTM); 4. Ty Gallimore (Cob); 5. Jeremy Lenard (KTM)

Mini A 1. Brett Gourley (KTM); 2. Sam Thurman (KTM); 3. Ben Jones (Kaw)

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

Junior A 1. Colin Brasher (Hon); 2. Blake Clark (KTM); 3. Jake Froman (Kaw); 4. Brandon Gourley (Yam); 5. Austin Lee (KTM)

Junior B 1/ Hunter Hutchinson (KTM); 2. Andrew Clark (KTM); 3. Kelly Adkins (Yam); 4. Tanner McCoy (KTM); 5. Blake Rinsch (KTM)