



Mid-South Cross Country / SERA / SETRA

CYCLE NEWS CONTRIBUTION

Round 8: Just Having Fun Racing @TFTC Run

# The Obanion Game Plan



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aking a few extra steps never really hurt anybody, or at least that's what Shane Obanion thought when he entered the 8th round of the Mid-South Cross Country racing series. Come Saturday, he was not going to let his extra chance slide by without a quick walk through the track because he thought that would give him the upper hand. His strategy worked, but who knew that it would pay off big time. He dominated Just Having Fun Racing's TFTC Run, clicking his heels with his first Overall win ever and better yet, his win landed him the number one spot in the Pro Action KTM sweep and this season's race in Overall points.



Not a bad strategy for the Heavy A winner. He manhandled the Pro arena. Unfortunately, it wasn't an easy one to accomplish. Although his first lap gave him more speed than most, he fell

hard, three times allowing Darin Downs to pass him so many times that it wore him out, but he kept plugging away and pulled out all of his stops one by one. Arms pumped up and all, he gave everything to finish ten seconds ahead in elapsed time over Dustin Gibson [911], the winning Pro.



Obanion said, "I got the holeshot and just sprinted. After that, I charged hard and went down and Darin [Downs] would pass me and that happened just like that two more times. Right at the end, we caught up to Dustin, and I got him going up a steep hill. It was crazy on that last lap. We were going back and forth. Darin slid out, and I got around him just before the end. It was a good race and a fun track."

Dustin Gibson missed the overall status by ten seconds, but he felt no shame moving into second place overall. He said that there were a lot more races left and anything could happen.

Off the start, Gibson wasn't sure if he or Jordan Ashburn got the holeshot, but he does remember the momentum, pushing hard for the lead, smelling antifreeze, and hoping and praying that it wasn't his. Shortly thereafter, he figured out exactly



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who had the dilemma. As he passed Ashburn, broken down off the trail, he was glad that it wasn't him.

"After Jordan pulled out, I guess I lost that drive and slowed my pace. My dad was letting me know, so I just kept pushing, kept pushing. Right before the white flag, a vine caught my front tire. I didn't want it to damage anything, so I stopped, lost some time, and they got around me. I got back on and started pushing and pushing and got around them, but it wasn't enough to win."



Darin Downs rode an impressive race and finished it in third place in overall. One thing is for sure, he made Obanion earn it because he definitely was not giving anything away. From start to finish, he was on it or right behind it. Last lap, he slid out and gave up the win, just like that.

"I am not happy with my ride, but there is not much I can do about it now," said Downs. "But, we do have the rest of the season, don't we?"

Needless to say, the battle for points can mostly be described as intense. With two heavy A winners, Obanion and Downs nested in the first and second place,

it makes for an interesting season for two-time, Overall Champion, Dustin Gibson and five-time, Overall Champion, P. A. Allen. Currently, they are winning their classes, but following at a distant third and fourth place in overall.

*Just Having Fun Racing, LLC*