



AMA MSXC Cross Country
Championship Series
By Rich Thurman



1-27-13 Greensburg Ky
Russell Creek

Ashburn & Maxwell Conquer the Creek

The forecast said it was supposed to be mid 40s come race time on the 27th of January. But if you live in the Mid-South, that can change rather quickly.

The Youth started off the morning at 8:30 am. Sloan Maxwell and the rest of the Junior A racers took off first and were treated to a frosty track full of frozen hazzards.

Sloan Maxwell

Photo by Lynn Tittle



Maxwell said “ Right off the start I could tell it was going to be a good race. On lap one I had to take it easy because I knew it was going to be slick, and about

half way through the first lap, I came to a really slick hill and some of the pack caught up to me. After I got unstuck, I tried to be as smart as I could. On lap two I remember my dad telling me, I was forty five seconds ahead and I didn't want to make mistakes on the second lap.”

The frozen ground made it hard for everyone to stay upright. It also was a chore to keep fingers and feet from freezing.

Maxwell said “On the last lap I had a big lead, so I just tried to take it easy, not make mistakes and get the win.”

At the finish, it was Maxwell in first, followed by Hayden Spencer in second, Leighton Tittle third , Ronnie Beach fourth and Dillion Bryant finished in fifth.

When the afternoon race took off at 11:30, the ground had begun to thaw, which made it only worse. It would have easier to race with the ground frozen. After all the rows of racers took off, and a steady rain began in the woods although the skies were not producing it. The trees had begun to thaw and all the ice was melting quickly. If you were in the woods, it was raining. If you were out of the wood sections, it was not. This compounded with the track thawing, made for some nasty conditions.



On the start, all the racers had to go through the “Eye of the Needle”. This was

a small group of trees big enough to only get one bike at a time through. The small opening and slick conditions, made for some interesting and crazy starts as the rows took off. Two racers or more would try to fit through, but only one would come out the other side!

Ampro Yamaha's Jordan Ashburn came ready to fight for his 7th win this season along with Darin Downs, Austin Lee, Jeff Cowan, Jase Martin, and several other AA riders.



As the crowd waited for the first racer to come through, the goal was to stay warm and dry. The crowd waited and waited, finally Ashburn came through first.

After him, people were wondering if anyone else would get through the muck and mire. About a minute and a half later, Darin Downs came through in second, followed by Jeff Cowan and Jase Martin.

Ashburn looked strong with a nice lead early on, but the conditions could prove to be anyones foe. And they did.

A number of racers were taken out early. Brandon "Fergy" Ferguson, Blake Rinsch, Braxton Dallas exited sooner than they had hoped. Reggie Wulff suffered a separated shoulder. Patrick Tiesler lost his chain on lap one.

25 racers never made a lap, 54 riders only made one lap and many more only finished two of the total 4 laps completed.



After it was all said and done, Jordan Asdhburn had his 7th win of the season. Jeff Cowan put in a great ride for second place aboard his KTM 350. Darin Downs took third on the day, followed by a fine ride from Jase Martin in fourth and Austin Lee finished fifth.

Round 9 will be Feb 17th at Foxhollow in Bucksnot Tn. See ya there!