

Blakeney and Smith dominate Pleasure Riders Bonus MX

Story by Dave Henry

Photos by Kathleen Gepford

October 9th marked the annual District 17 bonus points motocross at Pleasure Riders M/C. This year the motocross track saw major updates including bringing back the down hill and uphill sections that made the track a hotspot back in the 80's and 90's. Several hours with a dozer



and skid steer also saw the track's first turn become 12 feet wider than in the past and the majority of the track 6 feet wider than in the past. Water roads were cut in and they even have a custom made water truck provided by Big Wheel Offroad and Coffman's Truck Service. With all of the updates the turn out was good



and the racing was great.

The highlight of the day was the combined Open A, Open B second moto. After doing a double gate drop in the first moto, the riders decided to do a single gate drop in the second moto. This single drop is all the opportunity local racer Dakota Blakeney (185) needed to show his speed on the updated track. Blakeney, a 16 year old from Westville, IL had his Remax Real Estate backed Kawasaki on the gas as the gate dropped. Rounding the first corner with the holeshot was Blakeney, followed closely by Open A riders Corey Deadmond and Mattoon Kawasaki backed Korey Hawkins. While the battle was close between Blakeney and the "A" riders for the first 3 laps, Blakeney began to pull away as the white flag flew. Blakeney went on the cruise home for the win in the moto and the Open B win. Deadmond would bring home 2nd in the moto and 1st in Open A for the moto. The overall in Open A went to Cody McMurray on his Honda 450 with an overall score of 1-2. Deadmond was second with a 4-1 and Hawkins was 3rd with a 2-3.



Another great class to watch was the Super Mini class. Rochester IL.

Racer Parker Smith had his Kawasaki on rails as he went on to an overall win with a 1-1. While



Smith was out front trying to make easy work of it, the real story was watching Chance Trigalet (114) battle back from 2 bad starts. Both moto's Trigalet was just wringing out his Honda for all it had and he was flying around the track picking off riders and trying to make up time on Smith. Trigalet went on for a 2-2 finish and a hard fought 2nd overall for the day. When asked after the races what it was like to battle back like that, this is what he had to say. "The track was just awesome today. The start was really deep and I had a couple of bad jumps off of the gate.

With the way they have upgraded the track here, you can just stay on the gas and it is so much easier to pass. In one corner I had my choice of 5 different lines and that sure helped. I definitely could not do any of this without the help of my Mom and Dad, Coffmans Truck Service and Big wheel offroad. They really help me out a lot." Taking 3rd overall in Super Mini with a 4-3 was David McClain on his Yamaha.

Parker Smith (28) also went on to sweep both moto's in the 125 class and the Schoolboy class.



He had his Honda 125 flying in those moto's also and was able to catch and pass several "A" riders who had started before him from the double gate drop.

Another young rider who was fast all day and swept all of his moto's was Mattoon IL's, ATV and More backed Carter Gordon. Gordon (510) went on to take 1-1



finishes in 85 Jr and 85 9-13.

The biggest class of the day was the 250C class with 16 riders lined up to do battle. From the drop of the gate in the first moto, it was evident that this day belonged to Honda mounted Jared Keller (96). The Veedersburg, IN. native went on to convincing moto wins in both moto's. Newton's



Devin Shafer would come home second with a 2-2 and Chance Trigalet would bring home 3rd with a 4-5. Shafer would go on to sweep both moto's in the Open C class and take home the win there to go along with his 2nd in 250 C.

In the Plus 40 and 45 classes it was all Dave Jolin on his Honda 450. After fighting off battles with Brad Adams on his 2012 Kawasaki 450, Jolin would go on to win all 4 moto's. Adams would come home with 4 2nd place finishes behind Jolin and also go on to win the 30+ B/C overall with a 1-1.

In the 65 Sr class it was all Jason Gepford. Gepford, on this KTM would go on for a 1-1 moto sweep. Gepford (50) also put in a great ride in 85 Jr, putting up a 2-2 for second overall on the day.



Overall it was a great day on racing at Pleasure Riders. The weather was beautiful for early October, the track was in prime condition and the competition was great. When I talked to one of the track designers, Eric Trigalet, this is what he had to say. "The track turned out great today. With the new water truck provided by Big Wheel Offroad, we were able to keep the track in great shape all day long. We definitely plan to keep upgrading the track by adding even more of the lower level of the track back in

and look forward to having more races in 2012". Pleasure Riders will look to kick off their 2012 season as early as April with multiple weekends of Hill climbs, Motocross and the annual Georgetown fair motocross, which is always a fan favorite.