



Michael Leeson entered the 125cc Amateur class, and ended up outrunning everyone despite crashing early in the race.

Kai Ramadan (6) and Kevin Stevens (57) opted for different lines on an uphill. Stevens ran third overall.



AMA/Jones/Metzeler National Championship Hare Scrambles Series: Round 6

Leeson wins at Perry Mountain

By Suzi Mingo
Photos by Dave Henry, Wendy and Mingo

MAPLESVILLE, AL, SEPT. 12

Michael Leeson streaked to the 125cc Amateur and overall win at round six of the National Hare Scrambles Series. The Suzuki mounted University of Florida student finished 11 seconds ahead of Special class winner David Crain and 27 seconds ahead of Open winner Kevin Stevens, on corrected time.

ISDE rider Terry Seales and the Perry Mountain M.C. laid out a predominantly fast 7.6 mile course through the pastures and hillsides

adjoining Reynolds Pasture, well-known site of many enduros and ISDE qualifiers. Trails and course hazards were extremely well marked, and scoring at both the main and safety checks was competently handled. Past use of this popular riding area did make for rough going on some of the sandy, whooped-out jeep roads and root-strewn, wooded trails, but most



Second on the 250cc class went to Allen Scott. He was slowed when his front brake stopped operating.

riders agreed that the three hour plus one lap race was both challenging and fun.

Starts for point paying classes were staggered, with the four Special class entrants leading off at 1 p.m. Crain, Terry Mealer, Bill Patridge and ISDE rider Dwight Rudder freight-trained their way through lap one. Rudder retired after lap four with a broken brake rod, and Patridge DNF with a flat tire.

Crain seemed to be picking up steam on his Honda XR200, knifing through the tightest woods and holding his pepped-up thumper wide open on the straights. Mealer stayed within striking distance until his Husky 250CR washed out in a sand turn, pinning him underneath.

Leeson was right behind Mealer. "I couldn't wheelie over him, because my bike was down on power, so all I could do was grab the brakes," said Leeson. "I slid into him and flew over the bars, and my bike landed on top of his bike. I told him I'd get help after I pulled the bikes off, but he said, 'No, I'm okay,' so I cranked up my bike and went on."

Pit stops nearly determined the top three finishes. At one point Husvarna/Hi-Point/Seer supported Stevens was ahead on corrected time, but he fell back when he stopped for gas two laps from the end. Leeson had to refuel four times, Crain only once. However, Crain lost his advantage only moments from the end of the race when he threw his chain. He replaced it quickly, but his corrected time was still nearly 11 seconds slower than Leeson's.

250cc winner Barry Jeffries said, "The first four laps that number 15 rider (Allen Scott) and I went back and forth. He passed me when I pitted, then I passed him when he pitted." Dirty Harry's sponsored Jeffries eventually pulled away for good, while Scott broke his front brake and had to settle for second.

Only 11 entrants managed to complete 11 laps within the allotted time, among them 200cc class winner Rickie Huffman. Virginia's Huffman, the defending 200cc Eastern Regional Champion, said, "I had my work cut out for me today. I crashed in that first pasture and got started dead last. After that, I just kept it turned on, and I finally passed (Steve) DeWitt

with three laps to go."

New Jersey rider Fred Hoess collected second in the 125cc class, but received the first place trophy when Leeson was moved to high point. Hoess, a top serious contender, was the only 125cc rider besides Leeson to finish 11 laps.

George Waller, Jr. turned in a fine eight lap ride and won the 100cc class on his Yamaha YZ80. One 250cc rider, who asked to remain anonymous, said, "I was going across those three wide-open pastures pretty fast when this little yellow minibike came whizzing by me. Boy, was I embarrassed, especially when they told me it was only the kid's second race on that bike!"

The top four 4-Stroke riders all completed ten laps, but Stanley Carlton was first to cross the finish line. All four were Honda-mounted.

Vicki Friday topped the Women's class on a 100cc Yamaha, while defending Super Senior Eastern Regional Champion Buddy Norton, Sr., scored his first class win of the season.

Honda mounted Jim Ford headed up a strong Senior class, followed by Ralph Siebe and former Enduro National Champion Ron Bohn. Metzeler's Andy Poole scooped up fourth in the Senior class, after which he presented Leeson with a tire on behalf of Metzeler. A pair of goggles was also presented to each class winner on behalf of Jim Yehl and Jones.

There are four races remaining in the series, and each rider's top five finishes will determine his/her year-end position.

Results

HIGH POINT: Michael Leeson (Suz).
SPECIAL: 1. David Crain (Hon); 2. Terry Mealer (Hus); 3. Bill Patridge (C-A); 4. Dwight Rudder (Hus).
OPEN: 1. Kevin Stevens (Hus); 2. Tommy Harris (Hus); 3. Doug Hyatt (Yam); 4. Charles Chesser (Hus); 5. Mike Lollar (Mai).
250cc: 1. Barry Jeffries (KTM); 2. Allen Scott (C-A); 3. Eddie Juahn (Hus); 4. Patrick Hussey (Kaw); 5. Jeff Sherr (Hon).
200cc: 1. Rickie Huffman (Hon); 2. Steve DeWitt (Yam); 3. Ray Shultz (Yam); 4. David Cornwell (Yam); 5. Mark Gracovich (Yam).
125cc: 1. Fred Hoess (Yam); 2. Ted Heitsche III (Hon); 3. Ray Shultz (Yam); 4. David Cornwell (Yam); 5. Rick Rueske (Yam).
100cc: George Waller Jr. (Yam); 2. Joe Heitsche (Hon); 3. James Ray Perry (Kaw).
SR: 1. Jim Ford (Hon); 2. Ralph Siebe (Mai); 3. Ron Bohn (Hus); 4. Andy Poole (Mai).
SUPER SR: 1. Buddy Norton Sr. (Hus); 2. Dave Henry (Suz); 3. Bob Land; 4. Maynard Starr (Yam).
4-STROKE: 1. Stanley Carlton (Hon); 2. Eddie Dean (Hon); 3. George Waller Sr. (Hon); 4. Albert Payne (Hon).
WOMEN: 1. Vicki Friday (Yam); 2. Suzi Mingo (Yam); 3. Diana Dean (Hon).