



Overall winner Ed Lojak (right) chats with Mark Hyde (left) and Kevin Brown (behind Hyde) prior to the start. Brown was third overall.

Lojak's final lap was his fastest of the day and clinched the win.



Senior class winner Barry Higgins (11) leads Jim Ford.

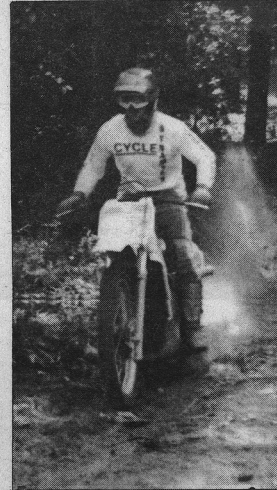


John Martin cooled off in a stream crossing, but kept up his hot pace to take second overall a scant 13 seconds behind Lojak.

Jeff Smith notched his fourth Super Senior class victory.



Barry Avery crashed hard, but still came away with the 250cc A win.



AMA/Hi-Point National Championship Hare Scrambles Series: Round 7

Lojak levels Perry Mountain

By Suzi Mingo

MAPLESVILLE, AL., AUG. 28

"I really *felt* like I rode three hours," said Husqvarna's Eddie Lojak after he took the overall win in the hot, dusty Alabama round of the National Hare Scrambles Series. "It's too hot for this," added Lojak. The 3½ hour event proved to be a real cliff-hanger, with Lojak finishing his 11th lap on the 8.1-mile course a whisker-thin 13-

seconds ahead of Can-Am's John Martin on corrected time. Kevin Brown, Barry Avery and Tom Buckles rounded out the top five. After a parade lap, Terry Seales and the Perry Mountain M.C. started the 120-plus riders in waves one minute apart with the 125cc bikes first. Observers blamed economic problems for the disappointingly low turnout of local riders, but out-of-state series regulars were on hand in full force. They came from Minnesota, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Florida, each intent on capturing vital class and National Championship points as the 1983 series winds down. With two races left and each rider's best five series finishes determining the final standings, competition in the seven points-paying classes is at an all-time high.

The only rider who appears to have a lock on his class title is Can-Am's product manager Jeff Smith, as the former 500cc MX World Champion scored his fourth win in the Super Senior division. H&H Husqvarna/Hallman/Metzeler-supported Barry Higgins also earned his fourth class win, but Allan Zitta has vowed to take the battle for that class title all the way to the Ohio series finale in November. Zitta put his Cycle

Dynamics KTM away after only four laps at Perry Mountain when he fell victim to the heat. Higgins was riding Dick Burleson's Husky 500TC, a four-speed, four-stroke machine that turned many heads as the former "Maico Meister" finessed his way around the demanding course.

For John Martin the race ended, "One lap too late." The plucky Minnesotan was about three seconds behind Lojak on corrected time after his 10th lap, but a gas stop cost him valuable time. "Why didn't I win?" Martin asked. "You can just say I didn't ride fast enough."

After the race, Lojak said, "I slowed down a little so I could save my energy, but then I knew he (Martin) was catching up." Lighting the afterburners, the ISDE gold medalist turned his last lap in around 18 minutes, his fastest time of the day. Lojak was aided by the fact that many riders had already fallen by the wayside, either because of heat or bike problems. Overcast skies provided some limited relief from the mid-90 degree

temperatures and matching humidity readings during the last hour and a half. "It rained on the other side of the hill," said a B rider, with obvious satisfaction. "I never would have made it otherwise."

Factory Can-Am rider Darryl Kuenzer was reduced to pitting for Martin and Smith after a broken crankshaft on the parade lap put him out of commission for the day. Husky-mounted Kevin Brown rode an excellent race, leading the Open class for the first four laps before being passed by Martin on lap five. Kevin Hines DNF after two laps and said, "Kevin (Brown) and I were going at it the first two laps, and then my ignition ate itself up. First the engine started

misfiring, and then it just stopped."

From the spectator's point of view, the best race action was the seesaw battle between two-time event overall winner Barry Avery and Eddie Lojak. Avery clocked through the barrels first in laps one through three with Lojak hot on his heels, before a crash turned things around. Avery said, "I was leading Eddie when I hit a tree. I stalled the bike and he passed me, and then I developed a terrific headache. After that I was right behind him for a long while, but the headache kept getting worse."

Local favorite Glenn Hollingshead piloted his KTM to the 125cc class lead and was never seriously challenged through lap nine. "Then, I had a flat tire and after that the transmission broke. The bike wouldn't move," said Hollingshead.

Tramontin Cycles-sponsored Fred Hoess, of New Jersey, took the 125cc class win and finished 10th overall, despite getting a flat rear tire on the second lap and riding the remaining nine laps that way. Only the top 10 riders completed 11 laps—89.1 weary miles—before the race was over.

"It was really a nice course," said Team Husky's Mark Hyde after his 200cc class win. "There was a little bit of everything out there, but the race was too long. I'm tired." Scott Wolfersberger's determined push earned him second in the 200cc class, while first lap leader Stoney Mitchell dropped out of the top five after a flat rear tire and other assorted problems slowed his charge.

Keith Opeka won the Four-Stroke class on a Honda 200, moving into the lead on lap five and staying in front of the 10-rider pack the rest of the day. Alan Barker was second on a Can-Am Sonic 500, with James Liggitt third on a Honda 350.

Results were posted soon after the last rider clocked in, and Seales presented handsome trophies six deep to both A and B class riders. Gift certificates were also awarded to the top five riders in each of the seven points-paying classes on behalf of 1983 series sponsor, Hi-Point Racing Products.

Results

OVERALL: Eddie Lojak (Hus).
OPEN A: 1. John Martin (C-A); 2. Kevin Brown (Hus); 3. Tom Buckles (Hus); 4. Bill Partridge (Mail); 5. Terry Mealer (Hus).
250cc A: 1. Barry Avery (KTM); 2. David Crain (Mail); 3. A.J. Spicer (Mail); 4. Allen Scott (Hus); 5. Benny Means, Jr. (Hon).
200cc A: 1. Mark Hyde (Hus); 2. Scott Wolfersberger (Kaw); 3. David Cornwall (Yam); 4. Jim -Maltba (Yam); 5. Mark Gracovich (Yam).
125cc A: 1. Fred Hoess (Hon); 2. Landon Carter (Suz); 3. Rick Rueske (Yam); 4. Bobby Thomas (KTM); 5. Glenn Hollingshead (KTM).
4-STROKE: 1. Keith Opeka (Hon); 2. Alan Barker (C-A); 3. James Liggitt (Hon); 4. Mark Hough (Hon); 5. Keith Chambers (Hon).
SR A: 1. Barry Higgins (Hus); 2. Jim Ford (Hon); 3. Ralph Siebe (Mail); 4. Al Chuppa (Hus); 5. Al Zitta (KTM).
SUPER SRA: 1. Jeff Smith (C-A); 2. Jerry Massey (Mail); 3. Don Harless (Hon); 4. Lewis Beattie (Hus); 5. Ted Missillidine (Hus).
OPEN B: 1. Larry Arrington (Mail); 2. William Earr, Jr. (Hus); 3. Steve Maskey (Hus); 4. Todd West (Hon); 5. David Herron (Kaw).
250cc B: 1. Dennis Ditcher (KTM); 2. Larry Hill (Hus); 3. Tim Singleton (Mail); 4. Glenn Davis (KTM); 5. David Mitchell (Hon).
200cc B: 1. Charles Monroe (Hon); 2. Tim Howell (KTM); 3. Jim Shamblin (Yam); 4. Norman Cotton, Jr. (Hus); 5. Chad Earl (Suz).
SR B: 1. Joe Walker (Mail); 2. Larry Curry (Yam); 3.