

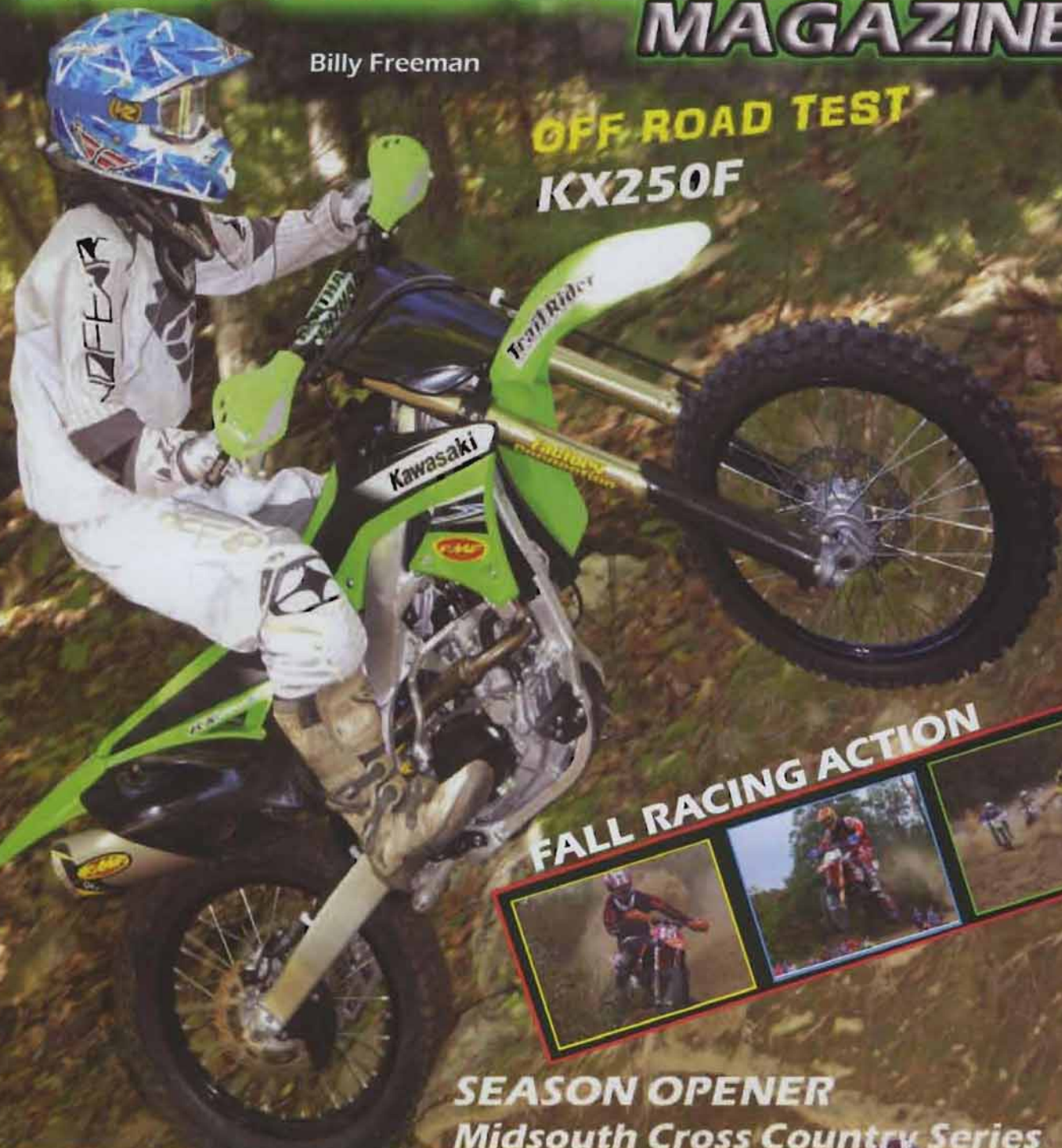
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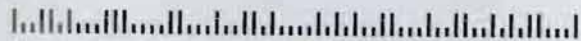
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Mid South Cross Country Series

Obanion, Downs and Gibson Come out
Swinging



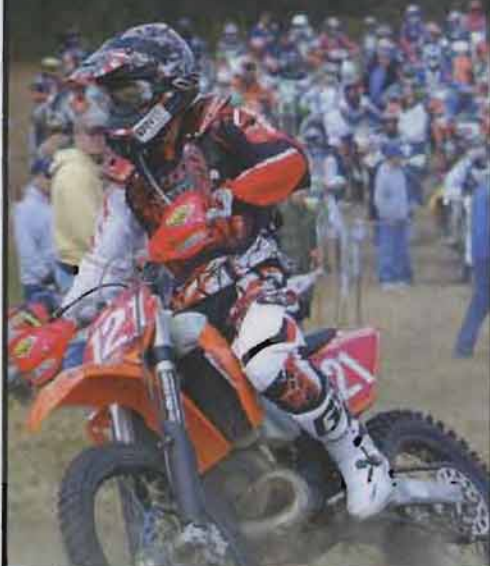
Zack Nash took the win
in the A Heavy Class

Thirty one years ago in 1979, a group of riders from the Mid South regional area, roughly centered in middle Tennessee organized a cross country hare scramble series. That series, MSXC has grown over the years with events in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana. The main schedule of the Mid South Cross Country series, formerly know as Mid South Winter Series, is mainly focused on the winter months. It is MSXC that plan races from September to May, rain or shine, hot or cold, dust or mud, in some of the best single track, tight wood trails in this region. Over the years names of organizers and promoters

have changed but the entity of Mid South Cross Country rolls on. Riders that began racing careers as 5 year olds on 50cc bikes have joined the national stage as prominent riders in National Enduro's, ISDE and GNCC series. MSXC is the home base for many.

The Thirty First season opened with Round #1 as a co-sanctioned event with the GNCC's Titan race in Lafayette, TN on September 26. An estimated 212 MSXC riders competed in The Titan and began earning points toward their overall score for 2011. In January 2011 there will be another co-sanction in Maplesville, AL with the MSXC/SETRA/SERA South East Cross Country race and in

Dilon Phelps Light
"A" winner



Dustin Gibson (no plate) 2009-2010 Mid South Champion
and Tyson Ezell (#226); "AA" 3rd and 5th place

May there is another co-sanction with the GNCC event at Loretta Lynn's in Waverly, TN. MSXC Tier I sponsors are Pirelli tire, Maxxis tire, MSR Racing, Answer racing and Pro-Taper. Supporters from the series areas include many off-road motorcycle dealers and their suppliers.

On October 3, just outside White Plains, Kentucky in the western part of the state, Round #2 of the MSXC series revisited the Lakeview course. Traditionally the season opens of the past have been characterized by dry conditions that turn the area into a no burn zone for the camping area. Consequently the race course is transformed into a dust storm. The twelve miles of wooded trail and grass track that wound around the fishing lake looked like it was on fire. Over 378 riders and 30 classes of motorcycles and ATVs competed on a challenging course through all types of Kentucky terrain. Many thanks go to race promoter Steve Ezell of Pro-Action KTM of Crofton, KY, and his crew for putting together an excellent, well prepared course.

This year, not only was additional new trail added, but the course was run in reverse from years previous. That was a nice touch! When the green flag dropped on teh AA class it was Shane Obanion (KTM) grabbing the holeshot and hitting with a clear view ahead. Dustin Gibson (KTM) and Tyson Ezell (KTM), raising a thick cloud of dust as they left the start ran second and third straight into the woods. Two hours later the leader off the line, Shane Obanion, was first across the finish for the first win of the season.

Shane Obanion (KTM), in his final semester of college at Western Kentucky State, has been riding since age five. Racing has even funded some of his college fees! Beginning with motocross, then a switch to bicycles and then back to motocross and finally to hare scrambles. He said hare scrambles put fun back in his racing. Shane admitted that although he has been racing for so long and thought he had seen it all, there is alot more going on in the woods than he realized. Although he was still using

Shane Obanion - Overall
and "AA" winner



Photo by Dave "Diamond" Carter "scars"

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the skills he has always used, he learned that he had to increase his skill set for off road. That was the challenge, a successful challenge in this case.

Dustin Gibson (KTM), the Overall 2009-2010 Mid South Champion, finished third overall and commented that this was a great course that had plenty of tight trail and that he really enjoyed riding it. The series will have him at all events this year trying to make the MSXC Overall Championship two years in a row. He and Shane will be the ones to watch in this series season along with "AA" Darin Downs (KTM) 3rd overall and "Light A" winner Dillon Phelps (KTM) 4th overall and "Heavy A" class winner Zach Nash (KTM) 5th overall respectively.

Consider this as an introduction to MSXC and an invitation to join us down South for some warm hospitality and hot winter racing to beat the snowbound blues!

For more information, complete scoring by ScoreMachine and the series schedule go to www.MSXC.com.

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