

Summer time?? No, just spring, but boy it sure felt like summer. It was pretty hot in Georgia. Last week when I rode, I had to wear a sweat shirt under my jersey, but not this week. I think we have seen the last of the COLD days till fall.

All the gang drove down the road to round 2 of the BOSS championship held at the upstart Pecan Valley race park. We were greeted and treated to some awesome competition and in typical Georgia style, all the moto guys and gals were digging in and going for it. It was a tough weekend and the races ran long, but the racing was no less amazing and it was great watching some of the best riders in the south.

Lets check out how some of the motos rolled out:

The boys in the 4-Stroke class took to the track in the first moto. PJ Larson was looking really fast at the drop of the gate and just as fast at the checkered flag. Larson's speed was phenomenal and his 1-1 score backs that statement up. Savannah GA's Jason Waters was ripping the track apart and scored a strong second in the first moto, but could not repeat in moto 2. It was young Bubba Crosby who stepped up to the plate. After a 3rd behind Waters in moto 1, Crosby dug down and ran it in for second in moto 2 giving him second overall. Bad Chad Albritton stood up on the podium's final step after a not so hot 6th in moto 1, Chad thru out a 3rd in moto 2 for 3rd overall.

Big Earl May rode up from Florida once again and proved that the old guys can still roll hard in the plus 40 class. Earl was back to his winning ways and gave a 1-1 performance. But he couldn't just play around, May had a legit threat knocking on his back door with Georgia's very own old timer, Ross Johnston. It was almost bizarre to watch the two different styles running 1 and 2. Earl looks like he is riding hard and all out, Ross looks like he is just riding along with no effort, yet he was running the pace. Corner speed, corner speed!! Right Ross?!? Ross kept Earl honest and his 2-2 score landed him in second place. Cycle Werks hot rod Kevin Brule' dug in his heels and slung a 4-3 ride for 3rd overall.

85 12-15 belonged to the Raging Bull! David Buller stood on top of the podium in both motos with his familiar #117 Honda. A 2-2 score delivered Kyle Matjasic to the runner up spot after some great laps. Colby Perley came over from Munford Alabama and claimed the final podium spot with a 5-3 ride in the sand of Pecan Valley.

Race 3 was the A Lites class. Larson had just rode off the track and went right back to the line to make his BOSS A class debut. PJ has been an awesome rider since I have known him, so it is no surprise he can drop the hammer and win motos in the big boy class. Now don't get me wrong, he had to do some work to get it done. If you think Jermaine Duncan and James Ragsdale can't turn the screws when it's time, you are wrong. I like watching Duncan ride. First of all, he is a great kid. ( I say kid, but he is riding the plus 25 class now, but he is a kid to me!) But he was looking extra sharp this weekend. Jermaine pushed hard and ended the day in 2nd overall with a 3-2 score. Now my young buddy, the Talented Mr. Ragsdale, was on the pipe (do we still say that) and going super fast as usual, but couldn't make it happen in the the Lites. Luck was not in his corner and James had to settle for a 2-3 ride and 3rd overall.

The B lites was Bubba Time! Not that Bubba,,,,, Our Bubba! Bubba Crosby. He was dealt a winning hand with a pair of Aces or a 1-1 if you will. Crosby is looking really fast and I just really like that guy! Yulee Florida rider David Higgins tied it up with Colton Sloan, but Higgins had the edge with a 3-2 vs. Sloan's 2-3. Young Stephen Weaver was able to show he is tough in his first year in the B class snagging 4th overall 7-4 on the Y&S Powersports Suzuki.

The Pre-Teen riders ripped it up with Paul Nelson taking a Double Moto victory for the big win. Taylor Holt was going really fast, but had a tough time keeping the rubber in the sand. Holt was shredding in the first moto but a crash dropped him back, so he got up and charged back toward the front, then another spill and that took the fire out of him, he still wrangled a fourth in moto 1, then came back and proved he could roll it out finishing 2nd in moto 2 for 2nd overall. The Champ (you know, Coleman Martin, 2006 National Champ) got out on his 65 riding against 85's and rattled the cages letting all comers know he can flow even against the bigger machines. His 3-3 ride was rock solid for 3rd overall.

MX, That's 250 C to you,,, saw the #191 of Cory Wellons take the overall showing consistency pays off. His 3-2 ride landed him right on top of the box. Kenny Smart looked like he had it in control after a big win in the first moto, but things got out of hand and he ended up in 9th for moto 2 and fifth overall. Adam Free got off to an ugly start in moto 1 and just didn't look up to speed. He was struggling to go forward. Moto 2 and Free got on his race face taking the win, but his 6-1 ride was only good for 2nd overall. A 4-3 ride nabbed Adam Durrence the final podium spot. John Dean was 4th overall with a 5-4 score.

65 7-12 was the Cody Barnhill show. Barnhill took the double win and was on fire on the 826 KTM. Tommy Maxey rolled across the line in the runner up spot overall with a 3-2 tally. Tyler Sharp made it on the box with a 5-3 ride.

Crosby was at it again. The #351 Kawi rider took control of the Youth 16 and under crew. A big 1-1 ride did the trick for the win. Garret Smith did some big work with a 2-2 score to keep Bubba C honest and to earn 2nd overall. MAD Mason Jones has a handle on the big bikes. I've been watching old Mason ride for years and it's great to see him going fast on the KXF 250. Jones used a 3-7 score for the final spot on the podium.

The Girls 9-14 Motoheads hit the sand and it was Hannah Twilley scoring big. Yeah, she has home track advantage, but being a top 10 National rider in the past didn't hurt. 1-1 for the top of the box. Gainesville's Mariah McNeill was sharp on the Suzuki and delivered a 2-2 score for the runner up spot overall. Carmen Fields kept it solid with a 3-3 ride while Tia Hanson rolled in 4-4 for the day.

The 50 kids powered thru the deep soil and looked like champs every lap. 4-6 saw the Mighty 690 (HUH??) take a big win with a rock solid 1-1 score. The Sugar Hill Georgia rider was on the gas. Hartridge Fields was the #2 man across the line in both motos for 2nd overall while Daulton Statham took the 3rd place position with a 4-3 score.

The 7-8 division was tough as well. It was Shawn Lewis on that familiar #33 machine doing double duty proving he was the top dog. 1+1 equals first overall in moto math. ( I just made that up) Garet King wasn't about to let Lewis have it easy and pushed to stay in second incase Lewis dropped the ball. It didn't pan out that way, but his 2-

2 landed him in second overall. Michael Webb's 3-3 ride rounded out the podium.

+30 was the #82 of Earl May showing that his Leatt brace wasn't slowing him down and another 1-1 ride did the job for the win. Lee "Tator" Tatham helped the Florida contingent out with a 2-2 ride for 2nd overall on the 641 Extreme Suzi. Steve Dummond made it a Florida Sweep with his 3-3 score. Wyman Darden and Tony Bishop rounded the top five.

Kevin Brule' had a strong performance in the +45 crew. His 1-1 score reeked of great training and bike set-up. Marcus Ricketts and David Daniel were both looking like podium finishers, but all hell broke loose in the second set of motos. Daniel and Ricketts had finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in moto 1 and were on their way to great rides in moto 2 until David Daniel got out of whack and tangled up with Ricketts causing a huge crash. Steve Petty had put his Honda out front early in moto 2 finally taking 2nd. His 5-2 score was strong enough for 2nd overall. You can't count out the Diesel. Dan Mauser cuts 1 strong lap after another and he landed himself right in the final podium spot with his 4-3 score. Bobby Staggs was looking back up to speed and used a 7-4 ride for 4th overall. Strong is in the name as Robert Strength came back out and showed some great speed going 8-5 for 5th overall in the 13 rider field.

Paul Nelson revved things back up for the 85 12-13 group. Nelson charged out front in both motos and took the overall for the day. Daniel Reeves put together a strong ride for the spectators and gave a 2-2 performance for second overall. Joseph Dukes and Colby Mullins finished the day tied in points, but Dukes had the advantage with his 4-3 ride edging out Mullins 3-4. Price Martin used a 6-6 to round out the top five.

The plus 25 kids were put to the test. Florida's Earl May came out on top of a moto 1 battle against youngster Jermaine Duncan. Earl is a tough guy and is very tough to beat in any condition. He rides hard, rides often and is in great shape. But Jermaine was able to get his number in moto 2. Duncan turned it up and I'm telling you, the guy has caught another gear. Duncan's 2-1 score put him on the top rung of the +25 ladder. Earl was able to finish a strong second for second overall. Karl Scott was riding hard and rode a solid 3-3 wave to the final spot on the podium. Lee Tatham was 4th with King Smith rounding out the top five.

51 entry 4-8 took the measure of the competition with a great 1-1 ride. Logan Carlyle made it to second overall with a 3-3 score proving consistency pays off. Jerry Harrison's 2-6 finishes was good enough for 3rd overall. Kacey Silva and Matt Lowery rounded out the top 5.

It was the #5 of Price Martin firing the first shot in the 85 Jr. minis taking the opening moto win. Martin was definitely in the drivers seat going into the second round, but he was unable to duplicate and luck didn't roll his way. Paul Nelson once again dug in his heels and rebounded from a 3rd in moto 1 to take the moto 2 victory and the overall win. Martin had to settle for second overall after a 4th in moto 2. James Potter used a 4-2 ride to secure the final spot on the podium just ahead of the speedy Taylor Holt's 5-3 4th overall. Bryan Turpin ran a strong 2nd in moto 1, but 6th in moto 2 relegated the Locust Grove GA rider to 5th overall.

MX A class riders once again had to deal with the #27 of PJ Larson. PJ worked hard out front taking the overall with his 1-1 ride. The all so familiar #570 of James Ragsdale was riding hard and looking strong but was unable to get into Larson's back

pocket and set himself up for a win. James' 2-2 score was rock solid and landed him in 2nd overall. Jermaine Duncan rode into 3rd overall with a 3-3 score. It was Kyle Odom on the LSD suspended KXF snagging 4th overall going 4-6 to edge out Chad Albritton's 7-4 ride who also was on the LSD Suspended KXF. (not the same bike as Kyle, it was Chad's bike, it was just the same kind of bike and suspension. They couldn't be on the same bike, that would be preposterous!)

MX B belonged to Jacksonville's Colton Sloan. His 1-1 score had him in the drivers seat for the overall win. Nathan Collins was looking really fast and rode great going 2-2 for the day. With a 4-3 score, Preston Thomas was able to land himself into the 3rd and final spot on the podium. Brandon Middlebrooks has been riding a #22 KXF in the MX class which just throws me off after years of seeing him on the #11 bike. Regardless, Middlebrooks rode that Green Machine to 4th overall with a 6-4 finish. Logan Lynch finished 5-5 to round out the top five.

MX Lites D A battle broke out between South Carolina rider Hobie Miller and GA boy James Graham. Miller stuck first on the #8 machine with Graham in the #2 spot. Graham wasn't about to give up and put his the 914 Kawasaki onto the top of the podium with a second moto win. Miller had to settle for second overall with his 1-2 score. Metter GA rider Gatlin Daniel made a return to racing after a good bit of time off. Daniel went 3-4 for 3rd overall. Jacksonville's very own Chris Hoover thru down a couple of 5th place motos to land himself in 4th overall while Charles Screen finished up the day in 5th. According to my notes, Wild Child Brenna Byrd dropped the hammer on the boys in moto 1 with a 4th place finish, but a 12th in moto two relegated Whirly Byrd (that's your new nick name) to 8th.

Maximum Dirt Motosports Guru Chris Kelly came out on top of the field in the Vet Novice class. Kelly had to settle for second behind Reese Barnes in moto 1, but came out swinging in moto 2 to take the moto win and the overall. Reese Barnes took the 2nd position with his 1-2 ride. Heath Hamrick went 4-3 for 3rd overall while the #654 Honda of Paul Fitts, who keeps getting quicker and quicker, landed in 4th overall with a 5-6 ride. Warren Tyson rounded the top five with his 8-4 score.

The Champ was back in action in the 85 7-11 crowd. Coleman Martin delivered the win after a 1-2 score. Dillon Smith was almost able to snatch the win taking the second moto win, but his 3rd in moto 1 held him back to 2nd overall. Bryan Turpin rode into 3rd overall with a 2-4 ride. Cody Barnhill and Myles Heath rounded out the top five.

Cole Nelson lit things up in the PW Shaft class going 1-1 for the day. He was able to defeat Jerry Harrison and Grant Fink who went 2nd and 3rd respectively. Matt and Adam Lowery was the #4 and #5 riders with Gage Linville rounding out the field.

Whirly Byrd.. I like that and I'm sticking to it. Brenna Whirly Byrd came out on top of the heap in the Women's class. Her 1-1 ride was strong and I should have let her keep the 20 bucks she tried to steal from me. Good job Brenna! Kristin Mullaney was riding her own race and is showing improvement everytime she gets on the track. She ran a 2-2 score for second overall. Kim Ebmeier was 3rd.

Garrett Smith took charge of the Youth class and handled the pack with a 1-1 ride to victory. Shane Bowlden was looking great on the 125 and came across the line in second both motos for second overall while Dylan Taylor nabbed 3rd (3-3).

Things got trimmed out for the remaining motos.

Coleman Martin showed the pack in the 65 7-9 class the quick way around the track as he was able to take the overall with his first moto victory. Tyler West took second overall with Tyler Sharp grabbing 3rd. Tommy Maxey and Perry Campbell rounded out the top 5.

In the 10-11 class, Cody Barnhill took the win with Landon Jones and Evan Tucker rounding out the podium.

+35 had Earl May stepping out in the first moto to take the win. Ross Johnston and Steve Dummond were solid in second and third until Ross stalled it for a second and allowed Dummond to get by. Ross ended up 3rd. I was having rather good day as I was able to hang just off the back of the lead group for the bigger part of the race and ended up in 4th overall on the Y&S Powersports, LSD Racing, Leo Vince, Big Air Graphics, Maximum Dirt Motosports, O'Neal, Azonic, Blur, Hunter Designs, Mighty 190 INC. backed YZF 450.....whew! Say that without taking a breath! Donnie Collins of Hilliard Florida rounded out the top five on the #7 KTM.

The MX Lites C class saw Kenny Smart take the win on the #126 machine. Dylan Taylor rode across the line in second overall while Cory Wellons took the #3 spot onboard the #191 Kawasaki. Jason Coffey and Jeremy Johnson took 4th and 5th place respectively.

Motocross is a sport of conditions. There is a kind of formula that is followed to get thru a day of races and about 4 times out of 5, it seems to work out. Conditions are usually pretty easy to deal with but when one thing goes out of whack, some juggling has to happen to make up for it, when two things go out of whack, well, things start to get squirley and things can get out of control pretty quick.

Fact is blown water mains and inexperience with prep led to a tough weekend at Pecan Valley. Things slowed down as the staff tried to keep putting some water down and do some prep between motos. It was either ride in a complete dust bowl or go slow. Unfortunately both ended up on the plate. Yeah, it made for a long day. It led to some cancelled motos. But it wasn't the first time and it won't be the last time this will ever happen.

Ron Twilley and his family and crew thru down but they were overwhelmed by a series of conditions that got the best of them and all of us at the track. Ron has a tremendous track and a tremendous opportunity to be one of the best in Georgia. The guy is a true fan of the sport. You saw the place, you can imagine what kind of money went into building a place like that. He isn't out to make his fortune with that race track. He will probably never get back what he has put into it. He did it cause by golly, the guy likes dirtbikes, likes motocrossers, and likes to see us and his daughter and friends popping wheelies.

So don't let it get you down, we have plenty of more races this year to get your ride on. The next round will be up at Lazy River. You can be sure there will be some fantastic races going down and you can be right in the middle of it. The date is April 14-15 and you can bet Vicky Roberts and her crew will give you a show. I'm looking forward to riding there and you should be too. See you all there!!

Chris Withers  
The one and only me!