



German Cross Country Championship, rd. 6, Mühlhausen

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Simo Kirssi remains on title course

BMW factory rider Simo Kirssi keeps leading the German Cross Country Championship after finishing runner-up at Sunday's round six held in Muehlhausen. The defending champ, who competed with a painful wrist injury, salvaged valuable points as he took the chequered flag 23 seconds behind arch rival Kornel Nemeth.

The Finn enjoyed a brilliant first half of the gruelling two-hour moto. Powering his BMW 450 X in fourth place through turn one, Kirssi soon passed Nemeth and Antoine Letellier, to take command of the race. His BMW crew rewarded the energetic ride with an ultra-quick pit stop, keeping Kirssi on top of the leaderboard.

Just when the winner seemed obvious to the 3,000-strong crowd, the Scandinavian had to reduce his pace due to growing pain. Kirssi had no choice but to let Nemeth run away in the final 40 minutes of the race. Nevertheless, he took runner-up honours by more than 90 seconds over third-placed Frenchman Nicolas Deparros.

The final round of the championship at Schefflenz (27 September) now promises to host a battle royale between Kirssi and Nemeth. Following his brave and determined ride, Kirssi is sitting on 135 points. Nemeth has tallied 120.

Simo Kirssi: "Muehlhausen is a nice track, I like it. But all those jumps and the tree trunk section really caused problems to my wrist. I had to slow down to make it to the finish line, and second place isn't too bad considering the circumstances. The hand will be fine until Schefflenz and I'll be ready to stay on the gas - just as I'm used to."

Wolfgang Fischer: "What an impressive display of fighting spirit! To finish on the podium with such a handicap tells a lot about the quality of the rider. Our whole team and Simo deserve this title, let's hope he can do it at Schefflenz."

GCC Rd. 6, Muehlhausen

1. Kornel Nemeth (HUN), KTM, 25 laps, 2:03,26
2. Simo Kirssi (FIN), BMW Motorrad Motorsport, 25, 2:03,59
3. Nicolas Deparros (FRA), GasGas, 25, 2:05,36
4. Stefan Svitko (CZE), 25, KTM, 25, 2:06,38
5. Mickael Musquin (FRA), BMW, 25, 2:09,27
6. Christian Weiß (GER), TM, 24, 2:03,37
7. Stefan Ludwig (GER), Husaberg, 24, 2:05,30
8. Michi Herrmann (GER), Honda, 24, 2:06,27
9. Nils Hagen (GER), KTM, 23, 2:07,49
10. Andreas Schulz, (GER), KTM, 23, 2:09,13t

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