



DAYCO NATIONAL SNOWCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

ONTARIO, Craighurst (April 6th, 2009) –CSRA ended a great season with a record breaking event at Horseshoe Valley Ski Resort in Craighurst, Ontario. A surprise snowfall Friday night gave the race track the perfect finishing touches for Craighurst's record number of competitors, 665 in total making for a full weekend of racing. Although Saturday's winds and blowing snow weren't quite ideal, the mild temperatures and sunshine on Sunday made up for it, setting the stage for a great day of racing and year-end points battles. A record high number of spectators crowded the stands and weren't let down as competitors put everything on the line for the final event of the season.



In the Pro Stock class, #73 Lee Butler (Royal Distributing Polaris) sat comfortably in first for the 2009 National series and as long as he stayed on the sled he would be able to secure the overall for the season in the Stock division. The fight for second place was on between #115 David Joanis (Royal Distributing Polaris) and #999 Michael VanDolder (Dayco Ski-Doo) with VanDolder sitting in second place by one point going into the weekend. In the final it was Joanis who took the lead from the start holding on for the win giving him the points he needed to overtake VanDolder for second place in the National Series leaving VanDolder to settle for third overall. Butler took second place with #166 Spencer Moncrief (Shorline Arctic Cat) rounding out the top three.



The Pro Open class was the highlight of the weekend as the National Championship came down to the final race where only two points separated second to fifth place. Butler went into the final with the Championship already secured, however, this didn't stop him from fighting through the pack determined to put his Polaris on top of the podium. #93 Iain Hayden put his Yamaha out front from the start with team-mate #2 Steve Taylor following closely behind. Team Yamaha had their work cut out for them as the hard-charging Royal Distributing Polaris's of Joanis and Butler stood in third and fourth place working to close the gap. Butler eventually made his way past Joanis putting the pressure on Taylor who crashed with only a couple laps to go, giving Butler second place. #202 Joey Sagan (Royal Distributing Ski-Doo) who was in fifth place at the beginning of the race appeared to be suffering from mechanical problems when he pulled off the track just past the half-way point allowing for #98 sled of Michael Island (Rosko Powersports Ski-Doo) to move up where he was able to chase down the re-mounted Taylor where they crossed the finish line side-by-side with Taylor taking fourth by a ski length. #93 Iain Hayden cruised across the finish for the win giving Yamaha their first final win. Butler took second place making his Pro Open Championship official, sweeping the Pro division for the 2009 season. Joanis took third at the checkered giving him second place in the National Series, a very impressive finish for this young racer in his first year Pro. A fourth place finish in the final gave Michael Island the points he needed to edge out VanDolder for third position overall in the National Series Standings.



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In the Semi-Pro Stock class, #173 Corey Watkinson (Shorline Arctic Cat), who along with Vandrie has dominated holeshots through the season stayed true to fashion by taking the lead from the start, holding on for the win and the National Series title. #333 Jeremy VanDolder (Dayco Ski-Doo) took second place in both the final and series. #87 Dustin Vandrie (Monster Arctic Cat) finished in third place, however, it wasn't quite enough points to pass #217 Sean Macaulay (Rosko Powersports Ski-Doo) who earned himself a third place series finish in his first year as a Semi-Pro competitor.

Semi-Pro Open got off to the same start with Watkinson taking the lead, opening up a comfortable gap between himself and VanDolder. #219 Byers, who was riding close behind in fourth, was out of the race early on due to mechanical problems leaving the top three to settle in comfortably for the checkered. Watkinson took the win and a second Series championship for the sweep in the Semi-Pro division. VanDolder crossed the line in second place followed by Vandrie, however, the points put them reversed in the series with Vandrie taking second place overall in the National Championships.

In the Pro Women's class it was #55 Angela Vacchino (Shorline Arctic Cat) who took the win in the final as well as the National Championship. Vacchino was pushed all season by #111s Stacey Orr (Rosko Powersports Ski-Doo) who finished second place in the Pro Women's final coming within points of the top position ending up in second place overall. #33 Danielle VanDolder (Dayco Ski-Doo) rounded out the top three on in the final as well as the National Championship.

New this year to the CSRA circuit was the addition of Vintage classes at five events. The Vintage classes increased dramatically in popularity following the first round at Barrie where 20 competitors took to the track with sleds that were built before our 2009 National Pro Champion was even born. Craighurst had the highest number of entries, with a total of 75 vintage racers putting on an entertaining show for the crowd. The most popular of the classes was by far the Vintage 1 class where sleds must be 1974 or earlier with bogie suspension. Half of the registered vintage racers were competing in this class making qualifiers necessary to make sure it was the best of the best in the final. Semi-Pro racer, #511 Jaymie McPhail took the win in his qualifier and the final on his 1969 Nordic for the title of Vintage 1 Champion. The Vintage 2 class requires sleds from 1974 or earlier with slide suspension, #43x Kevin Coulsen of Bracebridge took the win in the final. For the first time, the Vintage Open class was divided into both a fan and liquid class. In the Open Fan class, sleds from 1983 or earlier competed on the track with #7 Dave Smith of Wyevale taking the win. The Open Liquid class went to Pro Vet racer turned Vintage competitor, #43 Jim Scott of Orillia, on his vintage Yamaha SRX. Scott was awarded the Lee Memorial Cup in memory of Bud and Danny Lee, icons in the early years of snowmobiling. The Lee Memorial Cup will be awarded to the Vintage Open Liquid Champion each year at CSRA National Finals.

Thanks to all of the competitors, race teams, sponsors, and fans for a great season. The Annual Awards Banquet will be held May 9th at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario.