

AMSOIL Super Team Continues Crandon Dominance

Douglas, Oberg and Vanden Heuvel all earn podium finishes

The AMSOIL Off-Road Super Team has been red hot this summer, continuing its amazing run of podiums and wins that started in the second half of the 2006 season. With a second series (World Series of Off-Road Racing) now complementing the NBC-backed Championship Off-Road Racing series, AMSOIL-sponsored teams are dominating the competition.

In mid-June, the Super Team of Mike Oberg, Dan Vanden Heuvel and Scott Douglas took their high-powered engines to the famed Crandon International Raceway in Crandon, Wis. The venue was hosting the second weekend of racing for the WSORR, which included the third and fourth rounds in the season-long dogfight for championship points.

Located 250 miles from AMSOIL corporate headquarters, plenty of AMSOIL corporate staff were on hand in Crandon, including Executive Vice President and General Manager Dean Alexander and Executive Vice President and COO Alan Amatuzio, to witness all of the raw horsepower and tremendous AMSOIL exposure generated by the Super Team.



As Mike Oberg crosses the finish line with the win, teammate Dan Vanden Heuvel battles Scott Taylor for second place.



Oberg celebrates his first Pro 2wd win of the season at Crandon International Raceway.

Pro 2wd driver Oberg was coming off a successful opening weekend of racing. The Eagle River, Wis. native proved his place among the sport's elite in Owatonna, Minn. in late May. Oberg, driving Douglas' Pro 4x4 because Douglas was competing in the CORR race in California, took two wins in the Pro 4x4 Ford F-150. Oberg then moved into the seat of his Chevrolet for the Pro 2wd races, picking up second and third place podium finishes.

In Crandon, Oberg picked up where he left off in the Pro 2wd class. On Saturday, he grabbed the holeshot and positioned himself in front of the field for the entire 10-lap event. Just behind him for most of the race was teammate Vanden Heuvel, who was racing in his first WSORR race after competing in California in May. Vanden Heuvel made a smart driving move in turn three to get past the pile-up of trucks fighting for position. The AMSOIL Super Team led the race in first and second until the second-to-last turn, when Vanden Heuvel was briefly overtaken by six-time champion Scott Taylor. Taylor and Vanden Heuvel headed into the final turn nose-to-nose and crossed the finish line entwined bumper-to-bumper. After video replay, WSORR officials awarded Taylor second place with Vanden Heuvel finishing third.

On Sunday, Oberg and Vanden Heuvel would once again be front runners in the Pro 2wd class. Oberg started out in third, but moved into second by the halfway mark. With Vanden Heuvel battling from mid-pack to finish in third, the AMSOIL Super Team once again put two trucks on the podium.

"All in all, we are very happy with the way the weekend went," said Oberg. "It was a great weekend of racing for the AMSOIL/Kumho Super Team. To get both trucks on the podium in both races is unbelievable and a great way to start the season."

Douglas, meanwhile, also continued his Crandon dominance. The last time Douglas raced at Crandon was last September, when he won the two Pro 4x4 races and became only the second driver in history to win the prestigious BorgWarner Cup twice. He is the only active driver to hold that distinction. Douglas pushed his Ford F-150 into the lead on lap eight after finally getting around the lead driver. From that point on, Douglas never looked back, taking his fourth straight win at Crandon with ease.

"The amazing thing about this win was the fact that my transmission was pegged out at 350 degrees," said Douglas in the winner's circle. "Usually these things give out at 280 degrees, but that's just a testament to the great job that AMSOIL does for us. It saved the day again."

On Sunday, Douglas pushed hard and was among the leaders early in the race. After getting bumped heading into the back stretch, Douglas was forced to pit with a flat tire. The crew worked quickly and was able to get the number seven truck back on the track in time for Douglas to finish fourth.

The end of the weekend meant it was time to line up the Pro 2wd, Super Stock and Pro 4x4 trucks for the Chairman's Cup. The Cup race pits all of the trucks against one another on the same track, with the Pro 2wd's and Super Stocks getting more than a full straightaway head start.



The mud couldn't keep Scott Douglas from earning his fourth straight Pro 4x4 win at Crandon.

Oberg started on the pole and took the early lead. Vanden Heuvel was bunched up on the LeMans start, but was in the top five and moving towards the front. Meanwhile, Douglas roared through turn one as the leading Pro 4x4.

On the first lap, Oberg dropped back a position, and the Pro 4x4's started picking off the Super Stocks and were closing in on the Pro 2wd trucks. Oberg soon recaptured the lead and Douglas quickly moved his Ford F-150 into second. Vanden Heuvel was then able to push past the Super Stock truck of Ben Wandahsega for third, giving the AMSOIL Super Team the first three positions.

The top running wouldn't last long after Douglas was slammed by Even Evans, bending his A-arm and causing another flat tire. With Douglas slowing, Vanden Heuvel was battling to keep the 4x4 of Carl Renezeder behind him. The duo found their way around Douglas, who eventually pulled into the pits and called it a day.

On the last lap, Oberg fought hard to keep his Pro 2wd in front of the on-coming 4wd, but with half a lap remaining, Oberg couldn't maintain the lead. He finished second and took the honors as the first Pro 2wd to finish. Only two Pro 2wd drivers, Oberg and Taylor, have ever won a Cup race against the Pro 4x4's.

In WSORR action this season, AMSOIL-sponsored drivers have taken 14 podiums, including six wins. Oberg and Douglas will be racing at the next round of the WSORR series August 11-12 in Bark River, Mich. Vanden Heuvel will be racing again in September as the WSORR returns to Crandon and will then return to racing in CORR later that month.



Plenty of AMSOIL corporate staff were on hand in Crandon to cheer the Super Team to victory.

AMSOIL and ATVs: A Perfect Match

From snow to dirt, AMSOIL finds success with WPSA



AMSOIL receives great exposure as the nation's top pros push their bikes to the limit in a recent Super Quad event.

The World PowerSports Association (WPSA) is quickly becoming one of the top racing associations in North America. After years of being the top sanctioning body for snowmobile racing, the WPSA turned its attention to ATV racing in the summer of 2006. Already on board with the organization as the "Official Oil" of WPSA snocross racing, AMSOIL saw an exciting new venue to promote its vast line of synthetic lubricants and signed on as the "Official Oil" of the ATV tour.

"First, we already knew what the WPSA staff was capable of," said Jeremy Meyer, AMSOIL Racing Coordinator. "Second, here's a market that is just begging for high quality sponsors and even higher quality motor oils. It was a perfect match for us to continue our involvement with the PowerSports Tour."

Boasting an eight-weekend, 16-round schedule of racing, the WPSA has worked tirelessly to bring in the sport's top teams, riders and sponsors. With all of the races

airing on ESPN2 throughout the summer months, the WPSA has put together a complete package for racers, sponsors and fans.

The series has shown extensive growth in its second year. The WPSA estimates that 90 percent of the nation's top pros are competing in the Super Quad 450 class. At the fourth round of racing this season, the series saw more than 500 racers register, a number that almost doubled their expectations.

"We were hoping to average around 250 entries per weekend," said Robi Powers, WPSA Manager of Business Development and Marketing. "We expected a 20-30 percent growth in 2007. At some events we are seeing more than 100 percent growth. It's been fantastic."

Besides the rider support, another big reason for the growth is the support from ATV manufacturers. All of the major OEM's (Suzuki, Yamaha, Arctic Cat, Can Am) are either sponsoring the series or supporting teams at the races.

"I think the teams and the sponsors see the continuity of WPSA staff from race to race," said Powers. "You can go from the first race during snocross (the AMSOIL Duluth National), and the same crew that works that event will be at the final ATV Tour race. The teams have never had that before."



Rolling logs are another hurdle for the top off-road racers to overcome.

Along with the Super Quad class, the WPSA also offers a full range of support classes, as well as the popular Quad Terrain Challenge. That class consists of stock utility bikes that splash through giant mud holes, topple over gigantic boulders and bottom-out on redwood-like trees.

"This class makes for great T.V.," said Powers. "People see a rider going through the mud and think, 'I can do that.' So it generates interest in the series and ATV riding in general."

The WPSA ATV Tour airs on ESPN2. See www.amsoil.com for a complete listing of events and air times. The AMSOIL Wildcat Open Championship was hosted in Rossville, Ind. in late July, and the next event will be held on August 18-19 at the Raceway Park National in Englishtown, N.J.



Deep mud pits are just one of the obstacles in the Quad Terrain Challenge.