



Aki Pihlaja Opens The Season On The Podium In Duluth

(November 27, 2017) - Aki Pihlaja overcame adversity at the start of Saturday night's main event to rebound for a third place podium finish to begin the season.



Pihlaja jumped out to an early lead but was hit in the rear bumper as the field of 15 riders piled into the downhill first turn. "It was a good start, I think I had the holeshot," said Pihlaja. Then I was hit from behind and went over the berm and out into the woods." Not actually into the woods, but Aki did have to take a long detour to get back on the track and charge from deep in the pack to earn the podium spot on the last lap.

On Sunday, Pihlaja again qualified on the front row of the final and was challenging for the third when he came off of his machine just before the finish line. He would remount in tenth place and pick up one spot for ninth at the checkers.

New team member Ryan Springer had a rough start to his season after jumping to a commanding lead in his first heat race and then losing control of his sled with just two laps remaining. Springer, who has been impressive with his work ethic in the preseason can also be his own harshest critic and was never able to find his rhythm after the incident.



After a hectic buildup to the season opener, the team will have one weekend off before traveling to a new venue in Jackson Hole, Wyoming for rounds three and four on December 8-9.

Team Boss Racing, Marketing Partners:

Jimmy John's, Ski-Doo, XPS, FXR Racing, DAYCO, KYB, Hayes, Beaupre Aerial Equipment, Boyesen, Stud Boy Traction, C & A Pro Skis, Rox Speed F/X, NGK Spark Plugs, Xtreme Air Vents, WAHL, 139 Designs, Clean Media

