



## Aki Pihlaja On The Podium In Historic Deadwood, Closes Gap In Championship



Aki Pihlaja raced to another podium on Saturday night in Deadwood, which, combined with a fifth place finish on Friday, helped the defending Pro Lite Champion to narrow the gap on second place in the 2018 title chase.

Although Pihlaja is still seeking that elusive first main event win this season, he has been super consistent in recent rounds, often battling through the pack to reach the podium while other riders have started to fade. On Saturday, Pihlaja jumped out to a great second place start and never looked back.

"I really have to thank my team," said Pihlaja. They worked hard all weekend, even when we had some mechanical problems and got me back out here with a good machine." In fact, the Jimmy John's crew had to quickly thrash to replace a chain case on Aki's race sled in the short time between qualifying rounds on Saturday.

Ryan Springer went 12-12 in Pro class finals and gained one position in the championship.

The national tour will be on break for three weeks with action resuming in Salamanca, New York on

February 16-17. In the meantime, the Jimmy John's/BOSS Racing, Ski-Doo team will be competing in the Grand Prix de Valcourt on February 9-11 at the home of BRP in Valcourt, Quebec.



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