



Aki Pihlaja Races To First Pro Podium Elias Ishoel Maintains Lead In Championship



Aki Pihlaja stepped out of the shadow of his championship leading teammate Elias Ishoel on Friday, finishing second in the Pro final, his first podium appearance as a rookie in the premier class. Pihlaja's result was the cherry on top of a nearly perfect day in which he went 1-2 in his heat races to earn the top qualifier spot.

Ishoel came into the weekend a bit under the weather but battled forward in each main event, finishing on the podium in third on Friday and Saturday. Ishoel continues to have a stronghold on the championship with a 33 point lead as the tour approaches the halfway point of the season. Pihlaja's massive points weekend propelled him up one spot in the standings to 7th overall but he is now back within striking distance of second place.

Prior to the weekend the Jimmy John's team signed amateur racer Jordan Lebel to a support program for the remainder of the season. Lebel did not disappoint in his first outing, winning his Jr. 14-15 final and finishing third in the Sport Lite main event on Friday. Lebel is currently the class point leader in the Jr. 14-15 division.

Unseasonably warm temps brought out a record number of race fans all weekend to witness the freaky fast action at the ultra plush horse racing facility just outside the Twin Cities metro. The team will now reload over the next two weeks and prepare for the starkly contrasting, but equally exciting, bullring racetrack in downtown Deadwood, South Dakota on January 25-26.

RESULTS

Round 5 Round 6 Championship

Elias Ishoel 3rd 3rd 1st

Aki Pihlaja 2nd 6th 7th

Jordan Lebel 1st 1st

