



Elias Ishoel and Aki Pihlaja Sweep All Three Finals In Fargo 1-2 Finish Closes Out Weekend Domination



Aki Pihlaja and Elias Ishoel delivered in grand fashion as the ISOC national snocross tour was finally able to get its points championship under way with three days of racing just outside of Fargo, North Dakota.

Pihlaja started the action with a big win on Friday night. Aki made his way to the front at the conclusion of the first lap and then traded positions with rookie Jacob Yurk two more times during the main event before stretching the gap in the closing laps to secure the victory. 2019 defending Champion Ishoel was tenth off the line and on a night that featured heavy snow dust and poor visibility, miraculously worked his way up to fourth place at the end of race.

On Saturday, Ishoel shot out to an early lead which he never surrendered. Pihlaja, meanwhile, struggled with visibility starting in eighth place battling a -18° temp and snow dust which formed a nearly opaque cloud. On lap four he crashed and was unable to rejoin the race.



Sunday morning brought a rare third straight day of competition as the series made up one round from the previously cancelled season opener in Duluth, Minnesota. With several days to prepare, both riders were ready for the challenge and the crew had both machines back in peak form. Ishoel and Pihlaja made their way through qualifying with mixed results but at the drop of the green flag in the main event, they launched their machines into the lead and were never challenged. As a result of his second win in a row, Ishoel retained the red number plate of the points leader. For Pihlaja, the second podium in three days helped lessen the damage of Saturday's crash and moved him up to sixth overall, just a few points out of a top three spot.

Both riders have already returned home to Europe for a quick holiday break but the team will be back in test mode right after Christmas, as the season resumes with a marquee event at Canterbury Park just outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 3-5.

Our support rider Jordan Lebel continued his control over the Sport class with a win on Friday and a second place on Sunday. Lebel has won seven of his eight qualifying rounds this season and now holds an 18 point lead over the second place rider in the class.



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