

Elias Ishoel One Step Closer To 3-Peat



There are no Mulligans or do-overs in professional snocross racing. However, history has shown that almost every rider is prone to having at least one, if not two, “bad nights” during the course of the 16 round ISOC national snocross season.

For Elias Ishoel, those two nights may have come Friday and Saturday during the tour’s first-ever appearance at the historic World Championship Derby Complex in Eagle River, Wisconsin. And, while the main events at rounds 13 and 14 may have presented a challenge, Ishoel’s remarkable determination salvaged what could have been disastrous finishes, taking yet another step towards a third straight Pro championship.

Ironically, Ishoel had one of his best qualifying efforts of the season on Friday going 1-1 on his XPS Ski-Doo in heat races, to earn the top qualifier spot. A mid-pack start in the final meant Ishoel would have to navigate heavy traffic dropping him as low as sixth place early on before racing back to fourth overall at the finish.

Saturday was a complete reversal with Ishoel going 2-5 in his heat races then starting strong in the all-important main event. Ishoel was in a comfortable second place in the final before taking over the lead on lap five.

As the front-runners approached the start of lap six, Elias shot off the side of the track while flying over the massive finish line tabletop jump. As a result, he came off his sled as it landed upside down in the 18-inch deep channel of melting snow that was surrounding the course in that area. As the pack raced away it was unclear if the number 200 would even be able to rejoin the race.



Coming up the face of the finish line I tried going just outside of the main line everyone was using and it grabbed my ski and just threw me to the right. I just rolled down the side of the jump into the water and had to get the sled started again.

Unfazed, the soaking wet Elias calmly remounted, made his way back on track and proceeded to go to work. During the remaining 11 laps Ishoel clawed back from 10th place to finish sixth and leave town with a healthy 81 point championship lead intact.

The team will return to Eagle River next weekend to close out the season, and another potential title, at rounds 15 and 16.

