



Ironwood, Michigan: Round Seven

Cor Powersports ended another great season of racing with the season finale in Ironwood, Michigan! It has become a tradition to end the season with where the roots of Cor Powersports are, on a ski hill. A mid-season change moved our 2023 season finale race and year end banquet to Gogebic Community College's Mt. Zion in Ironwood, Michigan. The race course was a 2.7 mile groomed ski hill type of racing terrain sweeping up and down the slopes of Mt. Zion. With a winter storm coming through the week leading up to the race, and getting an extra foot or so of fresh snow Friday, we decided to push the start of the race on Saturday to 11 AM due to travel and visibility issues. This allowed teams to check in Saturday morning before racing. When 10:30 AM hit, sleds saw the course for the first time on their parade laps.

Due to visibility, the Sport Improved, Semi Pro Improved, and Pro Open classes would run a two round combined time race format instead of a qualifier and heads up start. Flat light played a huge role in day one of racing with the sun only peeking out briefly a few times throughout the day.

The first race of the weekend started at 11 AM and was round one out of two for the Sport Improved class running a total of eight laps. After four laps, Jordan Wolfe was in the top spot on Ski-Doo with a total time of 18:39.185. In second was Max Bollesen on Arctic Cat (-7.204) and in third after round one was Keagen Houser on Arctic Cat (-17.236). These times will be combined with round two for overall winner of the Sport Improved class.

The second race of the day were the Vet 30+, Sport Women, Classic, and all Junior 14-17 classes. These classes ran a two day merged time format running five laps each day.

Race three was the Semi Pro Improved class who also ran the two round format. This class ran two rounds of five laps making it a ten lap overall timed race. After round one (five laps), Luke Van Lyssel was on top with a time of 23:32.27 on Polaris. In second was Boe Bunke on Polaris (-29.067), Derrick Krug in third on Polaris (-1:09.293), Jesse Hallstrom in fourth on Ski-Doo (-1:09.728), and in fifth was Aiden Johnson on Arctic Cat (-1:14.320). These times would later be combined with round two for overall winners.

Race four on the day were all Junior 10-13 classes and Junior 8-12 Transition. These racers ran three laps each day with winners being determined by overall times.

Race five was the Pro Open round one of racing. The Pro racers ran six laps each round making it a 12 lap timed event. After the first round, Zach Herfindahl was on top with a time of 27:46.010 on Arctic Cat. In second was Aaron Christensen on Polaris (-5.599), third was Paul Brown on Arctic Cat (-17.980), fourth was David Brown on Arctic Cat (-39.238), and in fifth was Justin Tate on Polaris (-1:57.393).

Race six of the day was the Pro Factory Women's, Masters 50+, Trail, and Vintage classes. These classes ran a two day merged time format running five laps each day. The Pro Factory Women's class was one to watch this weekend with a championship on the line. After day one, McKenna Cloose was leading the Pro Factory Women's class by 43.320 seconds over Unity Gausen.

The Expert 600 Limited and Masters 40+ classes made up race seven running five laps each day. These classes also ran the two day format.

Race eight on the day was the Sport Improved round two. After running another four laps (eight laps total), Jordan Wolfe stayed on top of both rounds making himself the overall winner with a time of 38 minutes 35.388 seconds on his Ski-Doo. Coming in second overall was Max Bollesen on Arctic Cat (-1:21.122) and in third overall was Adam Brandt on his Arctic Cat (-3:43.523). Arctic Cat's Keagen Houser finished tenth overall but it was good enough to clinch the 2023 Sports Improved Championship.

The next race was round two of the Semi Pro Improved class. Jesse Hallstrom was fastest in round two but overall, he came up just short to the top spot. Luke Van Lyssel took the win on his Polaris earning his first career Semi Pro division win with a time of 50 minutes 15.950 seconds. In second was Jesse Hallstrom on Ski-Doo (-37.681), in third was Boe Bunke on Polaris (-53.044), in fourth was Derrick Krug on Polaris (-1:05.237), and in fifth was Evan Peppel on Polaris (-1:11.806). With Bunke finishing ahead of Peppel, Boe Bunke clinched back-to-back Semi Pro Improved points championships.

Race ten of the day was round two of the Pro Open class. After another six laps, Zach Herfindahl stayed on top of both rounds making him the overall winner on his Arctic Cat Catalyst. Herfindahl's winning 12-lap time was 57 minutes 17.126 seconds. This also secured the 2023 Pro Open championship for Herfindahl. Coming in second overall was Aaron Christensen on his Polaris (-23.249). Rounding out the podium was the Arctic Cat of Paul Brown (-1:05.533). In fourth was David Brown on Arctic Cat (-1:38.933) and in fifth was Taylor Bunke on Polaris (-3:30.012).

The final race of the day was the much anticipated mechanics' race. Sleds took off one at a time ten seconds apart and would do two laps on a very beat up course. After a rough two laps, Eric Gausen (Unity Gausen- Pro Factory Women's) took the prestigious win with a time of 11 minutes 42.445 seconds. In second was Josh Kuhlman (Brandon Wolter- Semi Pro) with a time of 12:22.026. Rounding out the podium was Jacob Anderson (Trig Anderson- Jr 10-13) with a time of 12:23.915. Fourth was Levi Novacek (Reese Novacek- Jr 10-13), fifth was Cale LaVoie (Shane Boyer- Masters 50+), sixth was Tom Loegering (Jarrett Loegering- Sport), seventh Kim Gainforth (Keith Gainforth- Semi Pro), eighth Kieran Dantoin (Tanner Russell- Sport), ninth Eric Antonson (Luke Christensen- Sport), and tenth was Rick Beining (Nicholas Wenninger- Sport)

Sunday brought sunshine and a clear blue sky. This made the perfect day to finish out the 2023 season and crown some champions. The Sport Stock, Semi Pro Factory Stock, and Pro Factory Stock each ran three lap qualifiers and then heads up finals at the end of the day.

Race one of the day was the Sport Stock three lap qualifier. The top eight qualifiers would start on the front row of the heads up final later in the day. After a blistering three laps, Keagen Houser came across the line 25.216 seconds in front of second place! His total qualifying time was 13 minutes 15.265 seconds on his Arctic Cat. In second was Joey Mattias on Arctic Cat (-25.216), third was Max Bollesen on Arctic Cat (-30.746), fourth was Jarrett Loegering on Polaris (-31.489), fifth was Chance Ogle on Polaris (-31.940), sixth was Alex Spiess on Arctic Cat (-34.148), and seventh was Jordan Bernloehr on Polaris (-38.714). Earning the last position on the front row was Brett Stapelfeldt on Polaris (-40.131).

Race two were the Classic Junior 14-17, Sports Women, and Vet 30+ classes. They ran a total of 10 laps over two days with winners based on overall times. In the Classic class, Paul Brown took the win on his Arctic Cat with a time of 49 minutes 48.415 seconds. In second was Jacob Anderson on Arctic Cat (-5:18..544) and in third on Ski-Doo was Jason Bloomer. In the Junior 14-17 division, Elliott Clark took the overall win

on his Arctic Cat with a time of 47 minutes 48.066 seconds. This win secured the 2023 Junior 10-13 championship for Clark. In second was Jaxon Hammer on Polaris (-53.995) and in third on Arctic Cat was Aaden Olson (-1:03.036). In the Sports Women class, cross country racing rookie Eliza Boyer took the win on her Ski-Doo with a time of 49 minutes 28.876 seconds. In the Vet 30+ class, Adam Brandt took the overall win with a time of 49 minutes 47.649 seconds on his Arctic Cat. This made him the 2023 Vet 30+ champion. Coming in second in the race was Paul Gerke on his Polaris (-53.829).

The third race was the Semi Pro Factory three lap qualifier. The top eight sleds would start in the front row of the heads up final at the end of the day. The Sport competitor of Keagen Hoser decided to test the waters in the Semi Pro class on Sunday and came out as the top qualifier after three laps! His top qualifying time was 13 minutes 25.986 seconds on his Arctic Cat. In second was Derick Krug on Polaris (-4.338), third was Luke Van Lyssel on Polaris (-8.667), fourth was Jesse Hallstrom on Ski-Doo (-9.228), fifth was Evan Peppel on Polaris (-10.159), sixth was Parker Krumm on Ski-Doo (-12.576), and seventh was Aiden Leonard on Ski-Doo (-17.746). Earning the final spot on the front row was the Polaris of Keith Gainfourth (-31.849).

Race four were all the Junior 10-13 classes and the Junior 8-12 Transition class. They ran a total of six laps over two days with times being combined. In the Junior 10-13 class, Rielly Clark took the win on his Arctic Cat with a time of 30 minutes 47.585 seconds. This clinched the 2023 Junior 10-13 championship for Clark. Coming in second in the race was Bennett Iverson on Arctic Cat (-1:05.085) and in third was Luke Fredman on Polaris (-1:54.744). In the Junior 10-13 Girls class, Taylor Cloose took the win on her Arctic Cat with a time of 36 minutes 39.085 seconds. In second and securing the 2023 Junior 10-13 Girls championship was the Arctic Cat of Kynsie Diesen (-1:08.690). Taking third was the Polaris of Madyson Landin (-5:39.559). In the Junior 8-12 Transition class, Ryder Onken took the win on Polaris with a time of 35 minutes 59.864 seconds. In second was Cole Prusak on Polaris and in third was Trey Kohegyl on Ski-Doo.

In race five, the Pro Factory Stock sleds took the green flag for their three lap qualifier. This would set the starting order for the heads up final at the end of the day. Earning the top qualifying spot on his Arctic Cat was Zach Herfindahl with a time of 12 minutes 52.451 seconds. In second was Justin Tate on Polaris (-19.385), third was David Brown on Arctic Cat (-19.918), fourth was Aaron Christensen on Polaris (-27.103), fifth was Wes Selby on Ski-Doo (-35.600), sixth was Dan Revering on Polaris (-44.131), seventh was Paul Brown on Arctic Cat (-50.717), and eighth was Ben Langaas on Arctic Cat (-58.304).

Race six was stacked with the Masters 50+, Pro Factory Women's, Trail, and Vintage classes. These racers competed in ten laps over two days with total times merged for overall winners. In the Masters 50+ class, Jon Arneson took the win on Arctic Cat with a time of 54:36.519. In second was Shane Boyer on Ski-Doo (-1:51.570) and in third on his Arctic Cat was Todd Severson (-02:00.088). In the Pro Factory Women's class, McKenna Cloose took the win on her Arctic Cat with a time of 54 minutes 21.481 seconds. In second was Unity Gausen on Polaris (-1:51.691), and in third was Katie Clark on her Arctic Cat (-5:36.506). Gabby Hallstrom finished in fourth but that was enough to earn her the 2023 Pro Factory Women's championship. In the Trail class, Braden Sillerud took the win on his Arctic Cat with a time of 54 minutes 12.851 seconds. In second was Kyle Quesenberry on Arctic Cat (-1:34.472) and in third was Anthony Mckay on Polaris (-5:17.125). In the Vintage class, Paul Sillerud took the win on his Vintage Arctic Cat with a time of 57 minutes 34.901 seconds.

In race seven, the Expert 600 Limited and Masters 40+ battled it out for their second day of racing. These two classes ran a total of ten laps over two days. In the Expert 600 Limited class, Aaden Olson took the win on Arctic Cat with a time of 51 minutes 32.521 seconds. In second was Elliott Clark on his Arctic Cat (-16.72). This second place was enough to earn Clark the 2023 Expert 600 Limited championship. Rounding out the podium in the race was the Arctic Cat of Luke Omang (-1:00.528). In the Masters 40+ class, Todd Severson took the win on his Arctic Cat with a time of 56 minutes 2.563 seconds. In second was Dale Cloose on his Arctic Cat (-2:26.886) and in third was Jesse Wick on his Polaris.

The last three races of the day were heads up finals starting with the Sport Stock five lap final. Sleds lined up in rows of eight with a total of 27 sleds on the starting line. The green flag dropped and sleds made their way up the ski hill, made a quick right hand turn and back down. Max Bollesen got the hole shot and took the early race lead with Russell and Houser close behind. Houser quickly made his way into second and started to track down the leader. Not long after that, Houser made the pass for the lead and began to pull away from the pack. After five laps, Keagen Houser claimed the top spot on his Arctic Cat with a winning time of 20 minutes 58.217 seconds. This also secured the 2023 Sports Stock championship. Coming in second in the race was Max Bollesen on Arctic Cat (-41.973) and in third was Jarrett Loegering (-51.752). In fourth on Arctic Cat was Jon Arneson (-1:06.345) and in fifth was Luke Christensen on Polaris (-1:17.125).

The next final to take the line was the Semi Pro Factory class. Sleds lined up in rows of eight with eight laps to battle it out. The green flag dropped and the sleds were off. Evan Peppel, Derrick Krug, and Parker Krumm got an early race jump but Krumm swapped

out down the first downhill resulting in an unfortunate DNF for him. By lap two, Jesse Hallstrom found his way into the lead with Derick Krug running second. Sport competitor Keagen Houser soon found his way into the top two and started reeling in the leader of Hallstrom. After battling for the lead for a few laps, Houser had an off on the downhill coming to the finish which took him out of the race. Yesterday's winning, Luke Van Lyssel found some speed late in the race and now was the one reeling in the leader. After eight laps, Jesse Hallstrom was able to hang on to the lead and took the final win in the Semi Pro Stock class on his Ski-Doo. His winning time was 35 minutes 2.082 seconds. In a close second place was Luke Van Lyssel on his Polaris (-5.240). In third on his Polaris was Derick Krug (-1:05.881), fourth was Evan Peppel on his Polaris (-1:25.336), and in fifth was Aiden Johnson (-1:32.160). Evan Peppel's fourth place finish was enough to capture the 2023 Semi Pro Factory Stock championship making him a back-to-back champion.

The last race of the 2023 season was the Pro Factory Stock 10 lap heads up final. Sleds took the starting line in rows of eight. The green flag dropped and Aaron Christensen got the holeshot with Tate and Herfindahl around the first corner as the top three. Christensen showed speed early and led lap one. In the first woods section, Christensen had an off while leading which put him back to third. Tate took over the lead with Herfindahl running a close second and Christensen not far behind in third. Herfindahl made the pass for the lead putting Tate back to second and slowly started to gap himself from the field. Christensen's sleds stopped on lap three while running third and unfortunately scored as DNF due to a mechanical. Wes Selby then moved his way into third on his Ski-Doo. Paul Brown found some speed and made the pass on Selby and started to close in on Tate. Eventually, Paul Brown made the pass for second on Tate with Herfindahl still out front and pulling away. After ten rough laps, Zach Herfindahl swept the weekend and claimed the Pro Factory Stock win on his Arctic Cat with a time of 44 minutes 38.712 seconds. He also clinched the 2023 Pro Factory Stock Championship. Coming in second in the race was the Arctic Cat on Paul Brown (-1:29.107). In the last corner of the last lap, Wes Selby made the pass on Tate for the final step on the podium. Selby claimed third on his Ski-Doo (-1:52.004) with Justin Tate taking fourth on his Polaris (-1:52.820). Rounding out the top five on his Polaris was Dan Revering (-2:49.553). In the 2023 Pro Factory season points standings, that last corner pass Selby made on Tate made a difference. Zach Herfindahl took the championship but Aaron Christensen and Justin Tate ended in a dead even tie for second place with 301 points. The tie breaker of that is the racer who has won the most races in 2023 and that would be Aaron Christensen who won in Naytahwaush. If Tate would have hung onto third in this final, he would have claimed second place in points.

Cor Powersports hands out specialty awards at the yearend banquet each year and these awards are voted on by the public! This year we had six awards; Venue of the year, Rookie of the Year, Most Improved Rider, Sportsman of the Year, Team of the Year, and Rider of the Year. -Venue of the Year: Heartland 200, Park

Rapids, Minnesota

- Rookie of the Year: Unity Gausen & Keagen Houser
- Most Improved Rider- Gabby Hallstrom
- Sportsman of the Year- Zach Herfindahl
- Team of the Year- Team Rev Racing
- Rider of the Year- Zach Herfindahl

The entire crew with Cor Powersports would like to thank everyone for another great season of racing and we hope to see everyone at Hay Day's!