

Ottertail 100 Race Recap



This past weekend was the 2026 Cor PowerSports Race Series season opener in Ottertail, MN. During race-week prep, the weather was perfect for setup, but Saturday morning Mother Nature proved once again that this is winter, with double-digit below-zero wind chills, fresh snow, and 30+ mph wind gusts, making conditions challenging for the event and for these top snowmobile racers.

The Cor PowerSports crew split the parade lap into two groups. Pro and Semi-Pro racers were given 2 laps, while all other classes received 1 lap, in hopes that the 3 laps would help break up the unusually rough ice conditions. Even the Ottertail locals said they had not seen ice this rough outside the bay where the pits were located.

The day started with the Sport Improved Stock qualifier, which, after their 2-lap qualifier race, found Arctic Cat racer #521 Mitchell Kauk from Albany, WI, as the #1 qualifier with a time of 18:41.565, besting #413 Kyle Quesenberry (Arctic Cat) with a time of 18:46.248.

After the Sport Stock qualifier, the Pro Open/Semi Pro Improved qualifier race took place. In Pro Open, there was a fierce battle for the number 1 qualifier spot, and at the finish it was a Polaris 1-2-3, with the #14 of Taylor Bunke of Kindred, ND, putting down a time of 16:57.241, followed by the #188 of Evan Peppel of Roseau, MN, and defending Pro Open champion #10 Aaron Christensen of Metiskow, AB. But AC10 put in the fastest time of the race with an 8:26.406, which was over a full second faster than the next-fastest lap.

In the Semi Pro Improved qualifier, racing was just as close as in the Pro Open, which again saw a Polaris 1-2-3. The #783 of Tyler Brown of Hanover, MN, edged out the #122 of Oliver Olson from Roseau, MN, by 1.632, and the #44 of O'Ryan Bosek of Garfield, MN, rounded out the top three.

With that, the heads-up finals were set and held later in the day.

Heats 3, 4, and 8 were timed races, with the Saturday and Sunday race times combined for the overall. In these heats were Pro Factory Women's, Expert 600 Limited, Vet 30+, Classic, Jr 8-12 Transition, Jr 10-13, Jr 10-13 Girls, Jr 14-17, Jr 14-17 Girls, Masters 40+, and Trail.

Saturday winners in these classes were

Pro Factory Women's - #854 Reese Novacek Roseau, MN (Polaris) 28:48.701
Expert 600 Limited - #224 Bryden Diesen Wannaska, MN (Arctic Cat) 29:17.800
Vet 30+ - #7 Jonathon JP Parker Albany, WI (Polaris) 28:34.680

Classic – #56 Gunner Arlaud Gonvick, MN (Arctic Cat) 27:40.269
Jr 8-12 Transition - #235 Mia Landin Warroad, MN (Polaris) 38.07.580
Jr 10-13 - #412 Cash Novacek Roseau, MN (Polaris) 19:58.347
Jr 10-13 Girls - #12 Kynsie Diesen Wannaska, MN (Arctic Cat) 20:19.53.4
Jr 14-17 - #224 Bryden Diesen Wannaska, MN (Arctic Cat) 28:40.459
Jr 14-17 Girls - #551 Madyson Landin Warroad, MN (Polaris) 37:18.840
Masters 40+ - #7 Jonathon JP Parker Albany, WI (Polaris) 29:17.205
Trail - #16 Glen Arlaud Gonvick, MN (Arctic Cat) 30:08.034

Heat 5 was the heads-up Sport Improved Stock final. From the drop of the green, the #521 Arctic Cat of Mitchell Kauk rocketed to the lead, with the #308 Polaris of Anakin Bosek and the #413 Arctic Cat of Kyle Quesenberry in tow. The #413 Arctic Cat made moves and charged to the front. By the start of lap 2, Kyle Quesenberry had moved into 2nd place but was about 6 seconds behind the lead. Throughout the race, Quesenberry kept chipping away at the lead, setting the top 3 fastest lap times of the 4-lap race. As the Arctic Cat of Mitchell Kauk took the white flag, Kyle was less than 2 seconds back. On the last lap, Kyle made his move to take the lead, but shortly before coming to the checkered flag, he made a mistake in a corner, and the #521 Arctic Cat of Kauk took the checkered flag, followed by Quesenberry. The #51 Ski-Doo of Hayden Hoffarth rounded out the podium in 3rd.

Heat 6 was the ever-competitive Semi Pro Improved stock final. The riders hammered the throttle at the drop of the green flag, and as they routed the 9.5-mile course, they completed lap 1 with the #44 of O’Ryan Bosek showing the field the fast route around the course. O’Ryan was closely followed by the #122 Polaris of Oliver Olson, the #242 Polaris of Derick Krug, and the #77 Arctic Cat of Aiden Johnson. The field stayed in this running order until the start of lap 4, when #77 Johnson made his way around the Polaris of Krug. At the checkered flag, the #44 Polaris of O’Ryan Bosek closed out with a flag-to-flag win. 2nd place went to #122 Oliver Olson, and #77 Aiden Johnson rounded out the podium.

Heat 7 of the Pro Open sleds took to the course for their final. When the green flag dropped, the Nelson Racing sleds of #10 Polaris (Aaron Christensen) and #711 Polaris (Marshal Busse) looked like they were shot out of a cannon! At the end of Lap 1, #10 (Aaron Christensen) was in the lead, with the #173 of Paul Brown on his 4-stroke Arctic Cat giving chase, and #188 Polaris (Evan Peppel) rounded out the top 3. After Lap 2, there was a shakeup in the race order due to mechanical and off-track incidents. At the start of Lap 3, the #173 Arctic Cat and #188 Polaris pulled off, which moved the #711 of Marshal Busse and #36 Arctic Cat of Jesse Hallstrom into the top 3. The top-3 running order stayed the same, but the #312 Arctic Cat of Zach Herfindahl was moving up the leaderboard. Lap 5 saw the #10 in the lead, followed by the #711, #36, and #312. As they crossed the finish line, the defending Pro Open champion showed why he was the

2025 champion by taking the win, followed by the #312 Arctic Cat of Zach Herfindahl. The #711 Polaris of Marshall Busse rounded out the podium.

That was not the end of racing as it has been in the past few seasons. This year, the series brought back the Team class for all events. Two riders run two laps each after a LeMans start and driver exchange. Teams are limited to 1 Pro rider per team. It is not required to have a Pro, but the series is trying to keep this a fun, competitive class. Teams pulled chips to decide their gate pick for the heads-up start. After Lap 1, the Brown Tech team of #173 Paul Brown / #786 Tyler Brown (Polaris) was in the lead, followed by the Team Rev Racing team of #101 Dan Revering / #323 Sullivan LaVoie (Polaris), and Team Arctic 2 of #36 Jesse Halstrom / #8 Brady Wadena (Arctic Cat). Through all 4 laps, the running order stayed the same, but the bench racing with the teams and riders before the start, at the driver exchange, and after the race is what makes this Team Class so fun!

Sunday, as everyone arrived at the track, we were greeted by clear skies and the sun! This was a much-welcomed change after the difficult conditions of Saturday.

Racing started with the Sport Stock qualifier, where the #68 Arctic Cat of Rielly Clark of Warren, MN, took the #1 qualifier. In Semi Pro Factory, the #786 Polaris of Tyler Brown was the #1 qualifier, and in Pro Factory, the #173 Polaris of Paul Brown was the top qualifier.

Pro Factory Women's Day 1 leader #854 Reese Novacek on her Polaris held a 3.155-second lead over second-place #144 Unity Gausen on her Polaris, followed by #42 McKenna Cloose in third. On Day 2, #144 Unity Gausen was on a mission to make up the time and lock up the overall for the event. Over the 3-lap race, Unity clicked off fast lap after fast lap; on Lap 1, she set the race's fast lap at 9:07.913, on the second lap, 9:09.400, and on the last lap, 9:09.061. Unity's fastest lap was over 3.5 seconds faster than the closest competition, and at the checkered flag, she made up the deficit, winning on combined time by 10.651 seconds. #854 Polaris Reese Novacek took second overall, followed by the #42 Polaris of McKenna Cloose to close out a Polaris sweep.

Sport Stock Final was heads-up, and the #68 Arctic Cat of Rielly Clark continued the speed he found in the qualifier by taking the win, followed by #413 Arctic Cat Kyle Quesenberry and #521 Arctic Cat of Mitchell Kauk, giving the Sport Stock podium a green theme with the Arctic Cat sweep.

Semi Pro Factory race saw the #122 Polaris of Oliver Olson jump out to the lead, with the #1 qualifier, the #786 Polaris of Tyler Brown, giving chase. The #825 Arctic Cat of Keagen Houser of Grand Forks, ND; the #77 Arctic Cat of Aiden Johnson; and the #30 Polaris of Lucas Vaadi of Mannsville, NY, rounded out the top 5. At the end of lap 3, the

#786 of Brown took the lead from Olson, and the #77 of Johnson and the #30 of Vaadi moved up as the #825 dropped a few positions. From there to the checker, the running order stayed the same, with the Brown Tech Polaris of Tyler Brown taking the checker, followed by #122 Oliver Olson and #30 Lucas Vaadi.

The last race of the weekend is the ultra-competitive and exciting 100-mile Pro Factory race. After the morning qualifier, we had #173 Polaris Paul Brown as the #1 qualifier, followed by #10 Polaris Aaron Christensen, defending Pro Factory champion #188 Polaris Evan Peppel, and #312 Arctic Cat Zach Herfindahl. Rounding out the front row was the hometown Ottertail-area #101 Polaris of Dan Revering.

As the race went green, the #173 Paul Brown came around to complete lap 1, with the #188 Evan Peppel second and #312 Zach Herfindahl in 3rd. The #101 Polaris of Dan Revering was first to come into the fuel stop at the start of lap 3 due to goggle issues. With the minimum fuel requirements, the Team Rev Racing crew was concerned the #101 sled took enough fuel. After post-technical inspection of the fuel jug, they were notified he was .1 lbs to the good and did not need to take more fuel. The concern then became whether he would have enough to make the finish. By taking fuel so early in the race, he lost track position and dropped to 13th place at the start of lap 4. The running order was #173 with a 28-second lead over the #188 & #312 machines.

After all racers completed their fuel stops and the two-to-go signal was given, the running order still had #173 with a 26-second lead, but the #188 was still giving chase, followed by the #711 Marshal Busse, who moved ahead of the #312 of Zach Herfindahl. The hard-charging #101 Polaris was coming through the field, picking off sleds on course and during their fuel stops. With 2 to go, the Team Rev Racing rider had moved into 4th behind the #711 of Marshall Busse. On the white flag signaling one to go, the #173 Polaris held a 29-second lead over the second-place sled of Evan Peppel, with the #101 now in third, .011 seconds behind the #188. As the racers came around for the checkered flag, fans saw the #173 Brown Tech Polaris of Paul Brown take the win with a 28-second lead over 2nd place. On the last lap, the charging #101 Polaris made its way around the #188 to take 2nd place, giving Polaris the 1-2-3 in the premier Pro Factory class. The #312 Zach Herfindahl was the top-finishing Arctic Cat in 4th, and the #711 Nelson Racing Polaris of Marshall Busse rounded out the top 5.

We want to thank the entire community of Ottertail, MN, for welcoming the series back for the 2026 season opener. Mark your calendar for January 9-10, 2027. We will be back, as Ottertail 100 is on our schedule through the 2030 race season.

We would also like to thank the entire Team Rev Racing group for all their help with the event, from bringing out the hay bales to raising additional purse money for the Pro Factory race. We appreciate the hard work in helping make this a great hometown race.

Lastly, a huge thank you to Pederson Farm and Seed, Paul Haarstadt Excavating, DJ's Dock Service, Lakes Area Trailers, CCS Creations, and OTC Storage for your support in funding the Pro Factory bonus.

Full event results are posted online at www.CorPowerSports.com

On January 24-25, the series heads to Park Rapids, MN, for the Heartland 200