

Round Five: Leech Lake 200

Walker Minnesota:

Recap by: Emily Pearl Photography

Round five of the Cor PowerSports series took teams to Walker, Minnesota for the Leech Lake 200. Originally this race was scheduled to be a terrain race across the ditches of Walker and the surrounding area but due to rain rapid melting in the weeks leading up to the race, the race was moved onto Leech Lake. The course was a 25-mile unplowed ice course making for some rough high speed racing action. Saturday brought sunshine with only a short portion of the day with overcast. All classes excluding the Pro and Semi Pro division ran a two day merged time format with Pro and Semi Pro running qualifiers and finals. The first race of the weekend was the Sport Stock, Vet 30+, Junior 14-17, Masters 50+, Classic, and Junior 14-17 Girls classes. These classes ran two laps (50 miles each day). The Sport Stock class was a tight battle after day one with the top four finishers all timing in within one minute of each other. Clocking in first was Adam Brandt (51:59.838), second was Chance Ogle (-30.798), third was Oliver Olson (-42.686), and fourth was Keagen Houser (52.755) after day one.

Race two on the day was the one lap Pro Open and Semi Pro Improved qualifiers with the Junior 10-13 and 10-13 Girls classes running their day one lap. The top six Pros all timed in within one minute of each other! Abe Olson set a blistering lap on his Arctic Cat at 23:43.964. Zach Herfindahl timed in second (-9.323), Marshall Busse third (-11.296), Aaron Christensen fourth (-29.705), and Justin Tate in fifth (48.597). In the Semi Pro Improved class, Cooper Kangas set the fast time on his Ski-Doo (24:44.825). In second was Thomas Bosek (-28.461), third was Boe Bunke (-43.060), fourth was Jesse Hallstrom (-1:02.230), and in fifth was Derick Krug (-1:06.842). In the Junior 10-13 class, the top two were 16.047 seconds apart with Trig Anderson leading Rielly Clark.

In race three, the Pro Factory Women and Trail classes hit the track. In the Pro Factory Women's division, Gabby Hallstrom held a 26.939 second lead over Savannah Landrus making this class one to watch.

Race four was jam packed with Sport Improved Stock, Expert 600 Limited, Masters 40+, and Pro Vet 35+. The Sport Improved class had a battle heating up after day one with Keagen Houser leading Oliver Olson by only 6.225 seconds. In the Pro Vet 35+ class, Jon Arneson leads Craig Ritzinger by only 6.814 seconds making that class another one to watch.

Race five was the Semi Pro Improved two-lap final. This final was run as a timed race due to the rough track conditions. Racers got the green flag 10 seconds apart and they were off. After lap one, Boe Bunke had the fastest time clocking in at 24:14.820. Timing in second after lap one was Thomas Bosek (-57.214) and Cooper Kangas in third (-1:18.301). On lap two, the Polaris rider of Boe Bunke stayed consistent, running only three seconds slower than lap one on an

even rougher course. His second lap time was a 24:17.895 which was almost two minutes faster than his competition. Derick Krug running second fastest on lap two (26:23.819) and third fastest on lap two was Evan Peppel (26:28.947). Overall, Boe Bunke came out with the win with a total time of 48:32.715 on his Polaris. In second 3 minutes 48.764 seconds back was Derick Krug (52:21.479), and in third was Evan Peppel 4 minutes 4.180 back (52:36.895) making it an all Polaris podium. Cooper Kangas took fourth, only two seconds off the podium (-4:06.148) on Ski-Doo and in fifth was Brandon Wolter on Polaris (-4:35.897).

The last race on the schedule for Saturday was the four lap, 100 mile Pro Open final. This race was ran as a timed event as well with a mandatory fuel stop before lap three. The green flag was given with sleds starting in their qualifying order with Abe Olson off the line first. After one 25 mile lap, Aaron Christensen held the fast time of 24:11.405. Marshall Busse sat in second (24:36.603), and Justin Tate sat in third (24:49.441). Before crossing the line on lap two, the top three sled took fuel with Christensen first into the fuel stop followed by Busse close behind. Busse beat Christensen out of the fuel stop which put him ahead on track. Busse clocked in the fast time of lap two with the fast fuel stop at 25:40.939. Christensen timed in second at 25:55.801 and Tate in third at 26:05.338. On lap three, Busse enjoyed the clean air and clocked in at 24:50.214 while Christensen sat in his snow dust and ran a 25:09.055. With a gap between second and third, Tate clocked in third with a 25:29.023. On the final lap, Busse stayed consistent with his prior lap and ran a 24:49.256 with Christensen running a 25:42.310 and Tate running a 25:22.837. After 100 miles of racing, Marshall Busse clenched his first Pro career win with a total time of 1 hour 39 minutes 57.012 seconds. Placing second was Aaron Christensen with a time of 1 hour 40 minutes 58.571 seconds (-1:01.559). In third was Justin Tate with a time of 1 hour 42 minutes 16.639 seconds (-2:19.627) making it an all Polaris sweep. The only other finisher of the race was fourth place of Wes Selby on his Ski-Doo with a time of 1:54:57.462.

Sunday brought more sunshine and turned into a beautiful day for racing. With some tight battles heating up in the sport and junior class, there was a lot of anticipation leading up to day two of racing. Race one got the green flag and went to battle. After another 50 miles of racing, times were merged together to determine overall class winners. In the Sport Stock class, Keagen Houser took the win with a time of 1 hour 43 minutes 11.427 seconds on Arctic Cat. Coming in second only 8.044 seconds out of the lead was Adam Brandt on his Arctic Cat. Rounding out the podium on his Polaris was Chance Ogle 54.329 seconds out of first. In the Vet 30+ class, Adam Brandt took the win at 1 hour 43 minutes 11.471 seconds on his Arctic Cat over Jared Christensen on his Polaris (-10:01:755). In the Junior 14-17 class, Elliott Clark took the win his his Arctic Cat with a time of 1 hour 48 minutes 12.090 seconds. In second also on Arctic Cat was Aaden Olson 2 minutes 29.677 seconds back. Rounding out the podium on his Polaris was Jaxon Hammer (-3:36.220). In the Masters 50+ class, Mike Carver took the win on his Arctic Cat with a time of 1 hour 50 minutes 36.574 seconds. Scott Boyd took second on his Polaris (-40.046) and third on his Arctic Cat was Jon Arneson. In the Classic class, Ryan Derrick took the win on his Polaris with a time of 1 hour 51 minutes 6.019 seconds. In second on his Arctic Cat was Zach O'Mara (-18:58.850) and in third was Paul Votava on his Polaris (-

20:20.689). In the Junior 14-17 Girls, Katie Clark took the win with a time of 2 hours 3 minutes 5.873 seconds over Rachel Wimpfheimer (-15:51:233) both on Arctic Cats.

Race two was the Pro Factory Stock and the Semi Pro Factory Stock qualifiers along with the Junior 10-13 and 10-13 Girls day two lap. After a quick 25 miles, yesterday's Pro Open winner, Marshall Busse clocked in fastest with a time of 23 minutes 38.453 seconds. In second was Justin Tate (-14.294 seconds), third was Aaron Christensen (-14.403 seconds), fourth was David Brown (-14.884 seconds), and in fifth was Abe Olson (-27.301 seconds). In the Semi Pro Stock class, yesterday's Semi Pro Improved winner, Boe Bunke was the top qualifier with a time of 24 minutes 48.860 seconds. In second was Evan Peppel (-18.003), in third was Thomas Bosek (-30.376), in fourth was Brandon Wolter (-37.351), and in fifth was Cooper Kangas (-44.455). In the Junior 10-13 class, Rielly Clark took over on day two and took the overall win with a time of 56:50.038. In a close second was Trig Anderson (-33.231 seconds). Rounding out the all Arctic Cat podium was Bennett Iverson (-1:08.942). In the Junior 10-13 Girls class, Reese Novacek took the win (also taking fourth in the boys class) on her Polaris with a time of 58 minutes 38.366 seconds. In second was Kynsie Diesen (-10 minutes 24.937 seconds) and in third was Taylor Cloose both on Arctic Cat (-14 minutes 23.578 seconds).

Heat four the Pro Factory Women had a tight battle going after day one between Pro Women's rookie Gabby Hallstrom and Pro Women's veteran, Savannah Landrus. After 100 miles total, Gabby Hallstrom was able to pick up her first career Pro Factory Women's win on her Ski-Doo with a time of 56 minutes 28.607 seconds. Savannah Landrus claimed second on her Polaris only 26.939 seconds behind Hallstrom. McKenna Cloose who is coming back from a very recent elbow injury was able to round out the podium (-8:00.918). The Trail class was ran in heat three with Adam Brandt taking the win on his Arctic Cat with a time of 56 minutes 47.633 seconds. In second was Don McKay (-6 minutes 55.448 seconds).

In race four of the day, the Sport Improved Stock, Expert 600 Limited, Masters 40+, and Pro Vet 35+ classes ran their last 100 miles. In the Sport Improved class, Keagen Houser was able to keep his lead from yesterday and take the win on his Arctic Cat with an overall time of 1 hour 44 minutes 58.847 seconds. Clocking in second was Oliver Olson on his Polaris (-22.158 seconds) and in third on his Polaris was Luke Christensen (-6 minutes 57.400 seconds). In the Expert 600 Limited class, Elliot Clark took his second win of the weekend on his Arctic Cat with a time of 1 hour 51 minutes 37.672 seconds. In second was Jaxon Hammer on his Polaris (-1 hour 52 minutes 10.973 seconds) and in third was Luke Omang on his Arctic Cat (-15 minutes 46.587 seconds). In the Masters 40+ class, Mike Carver took another win on the weekend on his Arctic Cat with a time of 1 hour 24 minutes .320 seconds. In second was Jon Arneson (- 5 minutes 1.223 seconds). The Pro Vet 35+ class had a close battle heating up. After 100 miles, Jon Arneson took the win with a time of 59 minutes 3.341 seconds on his Arctic Cat. In second only 6.814 seconds out of first was Craig Ritzinger on his Ski-Doo.

Next was scheduled to be the Semi Pro Stock final but the crew decided to run the Semi Pro Stock and Pro Stock classes together as separate finals. The Pro Sleds got the green flag one sled at a time 10 seconds apart running four laps with a mandatory fuel stop. Then 10 minutes

later, the Semi Pro sleds got the green flag 10 seconds apart only running two laps. Sleds left in their qualifying order with Marshall Busse taking the green first for the Pro and Boe Bunke first for Semi Pros. These finals were both ran as timed races like yesterday. After the first 25 miles, in the Pro division, Justin Tate set a blistering pace breaking into the 23 minute range right off the bat. His lap one time was 23 minutes 56.946 seconds. Zach Herfindahl clocked in second 15.321 seconds back (24:12.267). David Brown set first fast 16.862 seconds back (-24:13.808).

In the Semi Pro class, Boe Bunke set the fast time of 24 minutes 39.485 seconds. Jesse Hallstrom sat in second 9.851 seconds back (24:49.336) and in third was Thomas Bosek 20.901 seconds back (25:00.386).

At the end of lap two, the Pro sleds got fuel which lengthened their lap times. Herfindahl had a fast fuel stop and clocked in with a 24 minute 51.494 second lap time with Tate running a 25 minute 1.538 second lap. David Brown was close behind with a 25 minute 0.03 second lap. Overall after two laps, Justin Tate was still holding the lead with a total time of 48:58.489. Herfindahl sat second -5.277 seconds back. In third was David Brown -15.354 seconds back.

On lap two and the final lap for the Semi Pro racers, Jesse Hallstrom laid down the fastest lap time at 24 minutes 55.502 seconds over Boe Bunke's second lap of 24 minutes 57.490 seconds. Overall, Boe Bunke was able to claim his second win on the weekend and back-to-back on the year with a total time of 49 minutes 36.975 seconds. Scoring second was Jesse Hallstrom 7.863 seconds out of first on his Ski-Doo (49:44.838). Rounding out the podium on his Ski-Doo was Cooper Kangas with a time of 50 minutes 45.146 seconds (-1:08.171). In fourth place was Evan Peppel on his Polaris with a time of 50 minutes 59.827 seconds (-1:22.852) and in fifth was Derick Krug on his Polaris at 51 minutes 24.365 seconds (-1:47.390).

After lap three for the Pros, Zach Herfindahl found some smooth fast lines out on the track and laid down a 23 minute 45.963 second lap time, the fastest overall thus far in the race. This put Herfindahl into the lead with a total time thus far at 1 hour 12 minutes 49.724 seconds. Sitting in second was Justin Tate 27.585 seconds back. In third was David Brown 56.826 seconds back.

On the final 25 miles of the race, Herfindahl improved his lap time ones again setting the fastest lap of the race with a 23 minute 44.721 second lap. Justin Tate clocked in second at 24:18.099 and David Brown third at 24:35.890 on lap four.

Overall after four laps, Zach Herfindahl was able to find a new level of speed the second half of the race to earn himself another win on the year with a total time of 1 hour 36 minutes 34.445 seconds in his Arctic Cat. Placing second was Justin Tate on his Polaris with a time of 1 hour 37 minutes 20.408 seconds (-45.963 seconds). Rounding out the podium was David Brown on Arctic Cat with a total time of 1 hour 38 minutes 22.440 seconds (-1:47.995). In fourth was the Polaris of Aaron Christensen at 1 hour 41 minutes 32.942 seconds (-4:58.497). Rounding out the top five was the Polaris of Taylor Bunke at 1 hour 42 minutes 14.131 seconds (-5:39.686).

This coming weekend (March 4-5) Cor PowerSports is headed to Naytahwaush Minnesota for the Snodeo 200. This will be another unplowed lake race. A few close season points battles to keep your eyes on coming into the last few races are the Pro Factory Womens class and the Sport Stock class. In the Pro Factory Women's, Gabby Hallstrom overtook the points lead this weekend and is heading Unity Gausen by only nine points. In the Sport Stock class, Chance Ogle and Keagen Houser are at a dead tie for the championship with two rounds to go!