

The Ongoing Battle to Be the Best Life In The Trenches With Team AMSOIL Snocross in Pursuit of a Championship



Tate kicks up a rooster tail while negotiating a sweeping turn.

Spirit Mt., Duluth, MN December 7-9 – A snocross race weekend is a test of will, skill, and strategy. It's exhausting and exhilarating. Preparation, problem-solving and using performance proven products are paramount to winning the battle to be the best. Key to winning a World Snowmobile Championship is to strike first, get wins early and then be consistent. The AMSOIL/Scheuring Speed Sports snocross team won the Duluth National Snocross Pro Stock final in front of a capacity crowd and a national television audience. It looked so effortless and natural, but it didn't come easy.

Team Owner Steve Scheuring had good feelings going into the Duluth Snocross. He couldn't put his finger on exactly why. There had been little snow for complete testing. The team hadn't competed in eight months. Still, Scheuring took measure of the team and sensed something big was about to happen. The duo of D.J. Eckstrom and Justin Tate purposely laid low and kept their sleds under wraps. There had been good press about the team

but they remained an enigma. No one, not even the team, really knew what to expect. The boys had new Ski Doo "mod" sleds, but perhaps more importantly, they were healthy and battle tested from last season's skirmishes with the world's best snowmobile racers.

On Saturday the wraps came off like gift paper on Christmas morning. Eckstrom and Tate melted what little snow was left on the track with blistering qualifying runs. In the crowd, a murmur had become a rave and expectations began to grow. The buzz around the pits and in the stands was that this team would be contending for titles on Sunday.

A glorious warm sun greeted teams Sunday morning. Temperatures swept past 40 toward 50 and the snow had become a slush, close to what the team had tested on. The conditions were ripe for a win. Team AMSOIL seemed calm and prepared, but not cocky. Usually the team transporter is a chaotic place, but on this day there was a sense of control and quiet confidence. The homework was done, sleds were set, drivers prepared, and it was race time.

The clock had struck noon, time to muster the troops and storm the course for the Pro Stock final. The green flag went up and the multicolored sleds were off like a rainbow caught in a blender. A whirl of color went into the dangerous first turn. The AMSOIL riders came through still on their sleds. Eckstrom got a little squeezed and knocked off the pace. A double off the first big air jump catapulted Tate to the lead and he never looked back. With each lap the hometown crowd got louder. With one lap left, their



Tate hugs Crew Chief John Kangas.

pro AMSOIL bias became unabashed with chants of "AMSOIL, AMSOIL."

At the checkered flag it was Tate the winner with partner Eckstrom finishing fifth. Tate, overcome with elation, threw his arms into the air. An overdue victory lap followed to a standing ovation. As Tate pulled in front of the roaring fans, Scheuring and the rest of the team met him. There were hugs... and a few tears. Justin Tate and Team AMSOIL had won one of many battles this season. A first step toward capturing the WSA championship flag.



Duluth Snocross fans enjoy the action.

WSA Snocross Schedule

Feb. 9-10	Syracuse, NY
Feb. 16-17	Valcourt, Quebec
Feb. 23-24	Shakopee, MN

Team AMSOIL and Justin Tate dominate Pro Stock at Duluth National Snocross.



AMSOIL Continues Winning Ways

- Thunder Bay, Canada - Molson Canadian Can-Am Snocross Eckstrom wins three events and finishes second in another. Tate is right behind his partner with two seconds, a third and a fourth.
- Grand Forks, North Dakota - ASRA/CSRA Super Snow Cross Indoors Eckstrom earns third place in Pro Stock final while Tate finishes sixth.