

Let's Go!

Snocross Racing Is Underway

AMSOIL Again Paces Competition

The 2002-2003 snocross season is quickly racing by. As in years past it all gets started in Duluth, Minn. on Thanksgiving weekend.

Remember as a kid when everyone got together in the backyard for some fun and games? It was especially nice when it was your backyard because you could play by your rules. There was a comfort level, a familiarity with the



The hometown fans showed their support for Team AMSOIL.

lay of the land. The world's best snowmobile racers came to the backyard of AMSOIL to play in the first round of the World Snowmobile Association snocross season. Team AMSOIL riders Justin Tate and DJ Eckstrom used the home field advantage to post some great results. The track was white with machine-made, snow-like ice pellets. With a clear sky and bright sun, those little icy BBs stung the face and blinded drivers.

Team AMSOIL entered the year with perhaps the most on the line. Prior to the season there was great intrigue over the switch to Polaris sleds after a long and successful relationship with another manufacturer.

In the Pro Stock class Eckstrom showed his strengths with skillful and artistic riding. He was running strong until a large ice chunk from the track got stuck in the sled's suspension, derailing the track.



Eckstrom puts Team AMSOIL on the podium to start the season.

Eckstrom limped to a 10th place finish.

The big showdown is always the Pro Open final. Eckstrom again qualified for the front row. Tate, as in Pro Stock, ran into an early round tangle and missed the final. Eckstrom picked up the AMSOIL effort. At the drop of the green flag, Eckstrom's sled was first off the line. He grabbed the holeshot. He was eventually caught and relinquished his lead. Trying to gain ground with only three laps left, Eckstrom attempted to launch man and machine through the air over a triple jump. He landed very hard and nearly ejected from the sled. With every muscle he managed to hold on. Eckstrom gathered his composure and remained in the thrilling race to finish third. The hometown fans roared with appreciation. It's fun to play in your own backyard.



Eckstrom goes hard into a corner. AMSOIL begins the year with new sleds, but same winning results.



Tate blasts through blinding snow on his AMSOIL sled.

AMSOIL Stays On Pace

Team AMSOIL just keeps on moving along. DJ Eckstrom followed up his third place finish at Duluth with a second place in Pro Open at the Canadian Open held December 14-15 at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg, Manitoba. When they're not outside, the team is making noise indoors. Just before the new year the pair traveled to Grand Forks, N.D. for a Super Snow Cross event. Tate is very good on tight courses and proved it taking a third place in Pro Stock action. Back outdoors January 4-5 Eckstrom placed fifth and Tate seventh in WSA Pro Stock action at Deadwood, S.D. The Pro Open event was postponed due to bad weather and will be raced later. The season wraps up with six major events before the end of March. Eckstrom and Justin Tate are climbing up the WSA standings with each passing week.