

POLARIS® SNOCROSS RECAP & PREVIEW: RACERS MOVING UP THROUGH THE RANKS CREATE OPTIMISM FOR ANOTHER STRONG SEASON

Polaris snocross racers achieved outstanding success again last winter, and with several young riders moving up through the classes, Polaris is once again positioned to capture the lion's share of podium positions and class titles on U.S. and Canadian snocross circuits in 2013-2014.

On the sport's premier snocross racing circuit, ISOC, Polaris racers won multiple points titles last winter as Jake Scott won the Pro Lite crown, Zak Mason won the Sport title, and Jennifer Pare won the Pro-Am Women's points title. Led by Ross Martin with three race wins, Polaris racers filled over 35% of the available Pro Open podium spots.

On Canada's top snocross circuit, CSRA, Iain Hayden (Rockstar Energy Polaris) won the Pro Open title and Jakob Rosko-Fong (Rockstar Energy Polaris) finished second in Pro Lite. In ECS racing in the northeastern United States, Corin Todd (now with Leighton Motorsports) won the Pro Open title, Mike Pilotte (Team Southside/Polaris) won in Pro Lite, and Polaris racers finished 2-3-4 in Sport points.

Polaris Race Manager Tom Rager, Jr., said the lack of an ISOC Pro Open title unfairly clouded some observers' views of how well Polaris racers did last winter.

"I think there's a misconception on how we did, snocross-wise," Rager said. "Unfortunately, Tucker Hibbert kind of ran away with the season [in ISOC Pro Open], but aside from Tucker, Polaris racer Ross Martin (Judnick Motorsports) won three national races, won the AMSOIL Dominator at Duluth for the second straight year, won the Eagle River Friday Night Thunder and the Eagle River World Championship, was second at the X Games, and finished second in ISOC Pro Open points while Kody Kamm (Hentges Racing) finished fourth. Really, when you look at the season as a whole in the Pro class, we had a pretty successful year.

"We dominated Pro Lite, with Jake Scott winning the title and our guys finishing second and fifth, and we also owned the Sport class, where Zak Mason (now with Leighton Motorsports) won and we had 68.75% of the podiums. Plus, Jennifer Pare (Leighton Motorsports) won her second straight Pro-Am Women's title.

"Look at the big picture and really, we had a phenomenal year."

In ISOC Pro Open points, Martin was second, Kamm was fourth, Kyle Pallin (Team LaVallee) was seventh and Justin Broberg (Hentges Racing) was ninth.

In the ISOC Pro Lite class, Jake Scott (Team LaVallee) clinched the title prior to the season finale, so he moved up to Pro Open for the final race of the season and finished 10th.

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Andrew Lieders (Lieders Racing) finished second in Pro Lite points, Andrew Carlson (Carlson Motorsports) was fifth, and Trevor Leighton (Leighton Motorsports) was 10th.

By winning a second consecutive ISOC Pro-Am Women's points title last winter, Jennifer Pare continued her tremendous career run. In 2009-2010, she finished fifth in points, she finished second one year later, and she has won the past two points titles, establishing herself as one of the sport's all-time best women racers. Polaris racer Tabitha Bode (Team BSR) was third in points last season, Jennifer Martel was fifth, Rachelle Fountain (Fountain Racing) was sixth, and Jessica Martel finished 10th.

In the ISOC Sport class points standings, Zak Mason won the title, Jake Angove (Fort Fremont Racing) was second and Braydon Love (Ducky Racing 444 Motorsports) was third. Luke Wollenberg (Three 7 Motorsports) was fifth and Andrew Lindholm (Lindholm Racing) was ninth.

PRO RACER LINEUP FUELS OPTIMISM FOR 2013-2014 SUCCESS

Rager said several racers who had success in the ISOC Sport and Pro Lite classes will step up a level this coming winter, and the returning Polaris lineup in the Pro class is extremely strong.

"Our system and our philosophy on bringing these kids up through the ranks is really paying off," he said. "Look at how we moved Kody [Kamm] through from Sport class to Pro Lite to Pro, and the same with Jake Scott, and we've got guys filling in right behind them. We've got a really deep group of riders in snocross right now."

Rager expects several Polaris racers to contend for podium positions at every ISOC national race, starting with Ross Martin.

"I think Ross is in the prime of his career right now," Rager said. "He's faster than he's ever been and he's in better shape than ever. His fitness is remarkable. I think a lot of it is experience. In Ross's case, he's become a smarter racer and that's made him faster. Part of being smart is he knows there's time to take chances and a time to accept finishing second in a qualifier and avoid taking unnecessary risks when you don't need to."

Kody Kamm finished fourth in ISOC Pro Open points and was named the circuit's Rookie of the Year for last season. Rager said Kamm had to rebound from a serious motocross injury last summer, making his success even more impressive.

"It was his rookie year and he started the season in pretty rough shape because of that motocross accident," Rager said. "His back was really hurting him and that limited how

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much he could ride before the season. The first couple weekends, he was struggling to make finals, then he turned it around.”

One year earlier, Kamm had dominated in Pro Lite and jumped up to race – and win – in the Pro Open season finale, just as Martin did when he was ready to turn Pro several years earlier.

“We knew Kody was going to be special and that kind of confirmed it when he won that first Pro race,” Rager said.

Levi LaVallee, the ISOC Fan Favorite last season, started last season with his sights set on top finishes, but was injured at the X Games and missed the second half of the season. “Even the little bit he ran early last year, he won some heat races and showed some speed,” Rager said. “He’s healthy and he definitely should be on the podium.

“Kyle Pallin is another guy who’s going to get on the podium. Last year was his first year on Polaris and it took him the first half of the year to get used to the sled. In the second half of the season, he had chances to win races. Kyle’s extremely fast and extremely focused on this year and he’s going to have a much better year this year.”

Justin Broberg (Hentges Racing) also had to get accustomed to the Polaris race sled last winter. “It took him longer to adjust to the sled than he wanted, but he came on at the end of the year,” Rager said.

2013 ISOC Pro Lite champion Jake Scott is stepping up to run full-time in Pro Open this winter. “I think it’s a lot to expect him to go out and run like Kody did last year in the Pro class, but we expect to see Jake Scott become a top Pro racer,” Rager said.

PRO LITE ROSTER BOLSTERED BY NEWCOMERS

Rager feels the Polaris racers in the ISOC Pro Lite and Sport classes should be favorites to win points titles.

“It’s tough when you move your top two finishers out of a class, but we’ve got guys that can help fill those spots in Pro Lite and in Sport,” he said. “We feel we have the right guys in place to step up and take over where the others left off.”

In the Pro Lite class, “Andrew Lieders finished second in points last year, so for sure he’ll be a title contender, no doubt about it,” the manager said. “Plus, we look forward to seeing what James Johnstad (Judnick Motorsports) can do this year in Pro Lite.” Johnstad is returning from a thumb injury that ended his season early last winter.

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Andrew Carlson (Carlson Motorsports) finished fifth in ISOC Pro Lite points last season and is expected to run strong this coming winter. “He really came on strong the last few races of the season and I expect him to start off where he finished last year,” said Rager.

“Zak Mason moves up into the Pro Lite class this year, as does Jake Angove,” Rager said. Mason won the Sport class title last season while Angove finished second.

Leighton Motorsports has formed what some observers are calling a Pro Lite super team. “They hit the reset and going with three Pro Lite guys who are all young and all fast. They’re pretty stacked in Pro Lite,” Rager said. The three are returning team member Trevor Leighton, who is joined on the team by Zak Mason and ECS Pro Open champion Corin Todd.

The national snocross racing season gets underway with the ISOC Duluth National, November 29-December 1 in Duluth, Minnesota.

ABOUT POLARIS

Polaris® is a recognized leader in the powersports industry with annual 2012 sales of \$3.2 billion. Polaris designs, engineers, manufactures and markets innovative, high quality off-road vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and the Polaris *RANGER*® and RZR® side-by-side vehicles, snowmobiles, motorcycles and small vehicles.

Polaris is among the global sales leaders for both snowmobiles and off-road vehicles and has established a presence in the heavyweight cruiser and touring motorcycle market with the Victory and Indian motorcycle brands. Additionally, Polaris continues to invest in the global on-road small vehicle industry with Global Electric Motorcars (GEM), Goupil Industrie SA, Aixam Mega S.A.S., and internally developed vehicles. Polaris enhances the riding experience with a complete line of Polaris and KLIM branded apparel and Polaris accessories and parts.

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