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Warnert Racing  
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**NTN**

*XPS*

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## Mt. Zion

Ironwood, MI

Misty Mountain Hop

The 2023 - 2024 ISOC Snocross season has officially begun with the opening rounds at Mt. Zion in Ironwood, MI! Unseasonably warm weather made for interesting riding (and spectating) conditions. Mother nature granted us the pleasure of rain from bell to bell on Friday. This made for low visibility, a continuously changing track, and a real notable layer of mud on...everything. Saturday would be clear skies but the mud remained a factor on and off the track for the entire weekend.

**Friday** was the Dominator, which included 16 riders from Pro and Pro Lite. This head to head, bracket style tournament kicks off the season and a shot at a \$10,000 oversized check. Both Jordan Lebel and Topi Posti qualified for the Dominator, but did not make it to the final round. No harm done, but it allowed for more track time to adapt to the odd conditions the drivers would see the following day. The Pro Women's class was regularly scheduled programming. Naeli Lebel had great qualifying rounds (P1, P2) and was feeling good for the final. Lack of visibility did not help her and finished P7 after racing nearly blinded by mud and sand. Dylan Lebel raced his first weekend in the Sport class, making the jump this year from Sport Lite. The Weapon held it down and went wire to wire in the Sport Final bringing us our first podium of the season!

**Saturday** was Round 1 for the Pro and Pro Lite classes. The day started off very promising, with Jordan Lebel and Topi Posti winning their first heat races of the season. Round 2 would go smooth for Lebel finishing 2nd, while Posti had an off while leading his 2nd heat race of the day. Topi was still able to grab the last spot on the front row for the Pro Lite Final. Topi would finish the day P5 after starting on the furthest outside gate pick and working through the roost from the middle of the pack. Here is where the day took a turn and did not unfold as we had drawn it up. The Pro Final was about to begin, but a shorted wire on the 511 sled caused a brake light issue. Checking the brake lights is a standard practice before each race, and was checked before leaving the trailer. (Think of that phone charging cord that you should throw away that only charges your phone in one specific position) Mechanic Kyle Sacket kept his wits, and communicated to mechanic Nate McConnell about the situation. The 2 minute mechanical grace period would expire and the race would begin with Jordan Lebel idle at the start line. Nate ran a staggeringly far distance from the race

trailer to the starting line at breakneck speed with the replacement part. Jordan and Kyle were able to replace the entire seat assembly and get Lebel on the lead lap just seconds before the leaders passed the starting line. This was not an ideal start to the season, but the quick reaction and coordination from the team allowed Lebel to collect starting points and get him in the race. Jordan would gain two spots and ultimately finish P12. Nalie Lebel had a similar day to Friday, but a crash would put her at P12. Dylan Lebel had an almost opposite result from Friday. A crash in qualifying would put him in the back row for the Sport final. Low visibility and not enough time would put him at P12.

The team will take a welcomed Christmas break this weekend and settle in for the long haul when we return to racing in Shakopee, MN Jan. 12 - 13th. The team showed great speed on all levels, and will surely come to Shakopee highly motivated to put us on the box. Thanks to all of our sponsors for the support this weekend and leading up to the season!



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#### 2023-2024 Team Sponsors

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#### About Warnert Racing

St. Cloud, Minnesota-based Warnert Racing is the premier team in professional snowcross racing and one of the sport's pioneering "superteams." The team is modeled after the most successful auto racing operations, managing the day-to-day operations of snowcross racers, including sponsorship, transportation, marketing, sled set-up, driver development and technology development.