



ski-doo

Warnert Racing
1203 33rd St S
St. Cloud, MN 56301



NTN

XPS

Andrew McLean
(320) 251-9100
amclean@warnert.com

Grand Prix Ski-Doo de Valcourt

Valcourt, QC, Canada

Hometown Hero

Each race on our schedule has its own aura that surrounds it. The Valcourt Grand Prix is no different. The kicker here is we are in the birthplace of Ski-Doo! Along with 25 years of attending this particular race, our team will have many friends and family in the grandstands. It felt as though we had a home field advantage over the rest of the paddock. That being said, we would not be without our own set of challenges that each race weekend presents.

The team arrived early in QC in order to meet up with our new friends from Makita Canada. We then stopped at the Ski-doo race shop and took a tour of the BRP museum. It was some great time to reflect on how far the world of snowmobiling has come. Once at the track, Friday was its own designated day of practice, and thankfully uneventful.

Saturday: Jordan Lebel looked to pick up right where he left off from Deadwood and put on a show in front of his fellow countrymen. After a strong showing in round 1, disaster struck early in round 2. Jordan had some contact with another rider resulting in a busted A-arm among other things, and a DNF on the scorecard. This would effectively end any podium contention for 511. Kyle Sacket was forced to pull out the backup sled for round 3, leading to a late night in the trailer for the mechanics to prepare for the following day.

Topi Posti would do well in his Pro Lite qualifiers. As the night went on the track got rougher and tougher. The Featherweight - Finn had a tall task in his Pro Lite Final facing the treacherous track. P7 would be the result.

Naeli Lebel would be the one to save the day! She went 1-1 in her qualifying rounds, looking the best she has all year. In the Pro Women's Final, Naeli would be the one to bring home some hardware in the form of a bronze medal! This is two podiums in a row for Naeli! Dylan Lebel would not be racing for points this weekend, so the pressure was off and he was only racing for pride. Unfortunately he would tweak his ankle in his Sport Final, wisely he didn't push the issue the rest of the race to not jeopardize his points effort next weekend. This would be all we see from the Weapon in Valcourt.

Sunday: After some bad luck, Jordan Lebel was on a mission for victory. In round 1, Lebel would place 4th, and then improve his result in round 2 with a second place finish. With an opportunity at the podium, Jordan needed to make it happen in round 3. After a solid start, he picked off 3 riders in the opening 5 laps to take the lead. He would remain out front and light the candles, taking the race win, along with the overall! This win now places Jordan effectively 3rd in the points championship and a great way to end the weekend!

Topi Posti would start out his day in similar fashion with a strong qualifying effort and a primo gate pick for the Pro Lite Final. After a solid start and settling into 4th place, another rider landed on the tunnel of Topi's sled. He kept moving, but a bent tunnel would void any suspension planning that was done prior to the race. He finished the day in P5.

Naeli Lebel would have to pay her dues this weekend. In the Pro Women's Final, Naeli was running in 4th place

with the possibility of contending for P3. With 2 laps to go, Naeli got sideways on a triple, sending her to the ground. She was down for the remainder of the race, but is ultimately OK. Heavy front end damage to the sled would result in a DNF. A tough hit to her points effort, but still sitting in P4.

Mixed results would be the story of the weekend, but in the end Jordan Lebel was able to put Makita Skidoo on top of the box. A great success for Ski-doo and Warnert Racing to win on home turf. Looking ahead, we will be back stateside next weekend in Salamanca, NY. With no return trip to race shops and the continued stint on the road, this will test teams both technically and mentally.

Thank you to all our sponsors that contribute to the success of our program, and all the passionate fans that stopped by the trailer and cheered us on this weekend, Merci!



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About Warnert Racing

St. Cloud, Minnesota-based Warnert Racing is the premier team in professional snocross 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 snocross racers, including sponsorship, transportation, marketing, sled set-up, driver development and technology development.