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TIM TREMBLAY CROWNED CHAMP, JUST MISSES SWEEP

Racing, in any form, is a fickle business. Despite the best laid plans, the best drivers and the best of equipment, at the end of the day there is an element of luck, or lack thereof that is out of your hands. So, when NSK team rider Tim Tremblay rolled into Lake Geneva, Wisconsin with the Semi-Pro Open point lead firmly in hand, it was simply a matter of completing laps and a little luck, before the title would be official.

If only it were that easy. Tremblay did take care of business in his Open class qualifier, dispatching with the field and scoring the win. However, when the class final shot from the starting line and up the massive ski hill, the well oiled machine began to seize. "I almost got the holeshot but then I left the side of the track, so then I had to get back on the track and started to pass a couple of guys" said Tremblay. Little did he know it was only hitting the first drop on the roller coaster ride. Still on the initial lap, Tremblay collided with a faltering rider, bending his right front tie-rod, knocking his ski tips out of alignment.

With the skis pointing in nearly opposite directions and causing the sled to dart and weave, it became a survival mission to just finish the race. As title contender Bobby LePage raced toward the front, Tremblay needed to finish no worse than sixth to capture the title. Lap by lap he slid back in the field before LePage, ultimately suffered his own issue getting tossed from his machine.

A new problem arose, however, as third place title challenger Dan Ebert was leading the race and pulling away. At this stage, Tremblay needed to be better than 10th to have a shot. As the laps and nerves wore down, Tremblay's sled held out long enough to take the checkers, a ninth place finish and the championship.

Not to be overlooked was the performance of XPS rider Justin Broberg who continued his season of consistent improvement. Broberg qualified directly into the class final and finished a strong fifth in the event.

In Semi-Pro Super Stock, Tremblay was out qualified by championship rival Cory Davis, with the two finishing 3-1 respectively. This meant Tremblay would have to finish at least two positions ahead of Davis to earn the second title. Tremblay's third place qualifying effort also meant that he would have to start from the second row of the main event, further stacking the odds against him.

As the pack raced up the giant first straight Tremblay went into full battle mode. It was not his best start, however, he proceeded to work to the front. In a charge from the back effort that has become his trademark this season, Tremblay closed on the leaders and was in third place at the end. Davis meanwhile lead the early portion of the race and was able to stay one spot ahead of Tremblay, denying him the Super Stock class crown.

Justin Broberg put in another steady ride of his own, winning his qualifying round and closing out the season with a sixth place main event finish.