

GAS GAS

Geoff Aaron Takes a Record 7th Title!

Geoff Aaron secured his place in the history books with second and first place finishes at rounds 11 & 12 of the 2003 series, held near Casper, Wyoming. With one round remaining, Geoff has been officially crowned as the 2003 Champion, giving him his record breaking 7th National Title, and stretching his lead in the all-time National Win list.

Typically, Geoff was pushed all the way by an on-form Ryon Bell. Ryon won Saturday's event by a comfortable margin, then looked good for a repeat victory on Sunday. In a nailbiting finish that has to be the closest in US National history, Ryon relinquished the win to Geoff on a 'furthest clean' tie-breaker. Geoff and Ryon finished Sunday's event exactly equal on points, cleans, 1's, 2's, 3's & 5's! They also both finished on the same total time! Ryon had taken his first dab on section 5, where Geoff held on to section 10. This is the second time this season that Ryon has missed out on a big win... the first being the inaugural Indoor National in January. With Geoff and Ryon getting the same number of points for the weekend, and only one round remaining, these two will once again be US #'s 1 & 2.

Geoff floats the gap on section 14.



Ryon Bell kicks it over on his way to 1st.

The Wyoming Trials Club set a varied Trial on the beautiful Hat Six Ranch. This venue has everything from sharp grippy rocks to slippery slabs, to mud bogs, dirt banks, and streams. The sections were on the easy side for all classes, so mistakes were very costly. Many of the sections were easy all the way for the Champs, and the hard ones typically had only one hard element. The truly challenging sections were few, and these were where the Trial was decided.

Noteable rides also came from Colorado native Keith Wineland, who at 17 is now beginning to find his feet at the top level. Keith matched the top dogs in most of the sections, although not quite as consistently. His first loop score of just 12 points on Saturday had him lying in 6th place, within striking distance of the leaders. It's becoming clear that Keith could pose a real threat in years to come. Also notable were the ascension of Cody Webb to the Champ Class, having wrapped up the Expert title with several rounds remaining, and the emergence of talented Coloradan Chad White as double winner in the Expert Class. Also impressive was the double win of Jake Wieland in the Expert Sportsman Class, and the Williams Sisters getting the better of UK Champ Maria Conway, over for a Trials vacation in the USA.



15 Year old Cody Webb made his debut in the Champ Class.



Wilson Craig had an off weekend, coming away with a 5th & 6th.



Colorado's Chad White won the Expert Class both days on his TXT300 PRO

Saturday:

1. Ryon Bell (Gas Gas) - 11
2. Geoff Aaron (Gas Gas) - 18
3. David Chaves (Sherco) - 25
4. Ray Peters (Beta) - 31
5. Wilson Craig (Gas Gas) - 31
6. Chris Florin (Montesa) - 41
7. Keith Wineland (Gas Gas) - 60
8. Andy Johnson (Beta) - 61
9. Travis Fox (Sherco) - 70
10. Will Duggan (Scorpa) - 100
11. Cody Webb (Gas Gas) - 105

Sunday:

1. Geoff Aaron - 12
2. Ryon Bell - 12
3. Chris Florin (Montesa) - 34
4. David Chaves (Sherco) - 43
5. Ray Peters (Beta) - 50
6. Wilson Craig (Gas Gas) - 58
7. Travis Fox (Sherco) - 58
8. Keith Wineland (Gas Gas) - 71
9. Andy Johnson (Beta) - 77
10. Will Duggan (Scorpa) - 107
11. Cody Webb (Gas Gas) - 116

For full results from all classes, visit
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Pictures by Eric Weaver