

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Medaglia delivers the goods at final MX Tour round in Walton

Tyler Medaglia put Monster Energy Alpinestars Piller's Kawasaki not only on the podium once again this past weekend at the final MX Tour round in Walton, ON, he secured a fourth overall finish for the team in what was a gruelling season-long 450 Pro points chase. The former 250 National Champion pulled out all the stops on the highly technical and super fast Walton Raceway on Saturday to hammer down impressive 1-4 motos aboard his explosive KX450F, which saw him claim second overall on the day. Medaglia's teammate Jacob Hayes, riding his third national of the season – subbing for an injured Mike Alessi – held up his end of the bargain with 9-7 motos that gave him seventh overall on the day.

In the 250 Pro title hunt, Shawn Maffenbeier ended the season with hard fought for 5-5 motos, which gave him fifth overall on the day. The defending champion, who had to deal with some setbacks this season, was unable to clear the task of a repeat. Still, the Swift Current, Saskatchewan native put together some great finishes this year that kept him in the top three, with a No.3 ranking in the final points standings. Maffenbeier, who claimed the championship in the AX Tour segment of the Triple Crown Series this past spring, maintains his lead on the overall points scoreboard, going into the SX Tour segment in September.

Although no rain fell on the final day of the five-day long Walton TransCan GNC, some serious wet stuff did come down on Thursday and Friday. Historically, the storied Walton TransCan GNC is prone to the skies opening up at a moment's notice – not to mention tornado-force winds ripping through the area – but the main event, the final round of the MRC Triple Crown Series MX Tour, proceeded under perfect weather and track conditions. Yes, it was hot and humid as usual, with temperatures hovering around 27°C that felt more like 35°, but that did not slow down the contenders as they battled for the last precious points in the championship.





The start and finish of the first 450 Pro moto had Tyler Medaglia written all over it. The Brookfield, Nova Scotia resident brazenly blasted his way into the holeshot and never looked back. He was a man on a mission, leading the race wire-to-wire. Known for his grace under pressure, Medaglia kept Colton Facciotti – on the brink of his fifth 450 Championship title – and defending champion Matt Goerke at bay for the entire 30 minutes + 2 laps moto. At one point in the moto Medaglia had accumulated a four-second lead over second place Facciotti. When the checkered flag was waved he crossed the finish line 1.5 seconds ahead of Facciotti. Goerke, crossing the finish line in third, was 4.3 seconds behind. An indication of the blistering pace the frontrunners were laying down is evident when considering that the gap between Goerke and fourth place Cole Thompson was 25 seconds.

Hayes, meanwhile, faced a back of the pack catch-up race, after going down at the start of the moto with Kaven Benoit. Undaunted, Hayes began to slice and dice his way through the pack from 39th place to a noteworthy ninth at the finish line.

The start of the second moto saw Medaglia in fifth place and Hayes in seventh. A few laps later Medaglia had installed himself in third, chasing down Cole Thompson in second and leader of the pack Facciotti. Behind Medaglia in fourth place a determined Goerke – who was tied in the points with Medaglia for a third place final series ranking, after the finish of the first moto – was on the prowl. At the midway mark of the moto Goerke took a chance and was able to stick a pass on Medaglia. At that time the top four positions were determined and locked in.



Hayes would end up in a moto-long battle to defend his seventh place starting position, which he successfully did till the checkered flag. Despite campaigning only three rounds of the MX Tour, the Greensboro, North Carolina native managed to finish in the series top-20 overall, with a 17th place ranking.

For his part, Mike Alessi ended the points chase in a still respectable 12th place. Alessi was in fifth place, after the four-round western leg of the tour was completed. A shoulder injury during practice for the five-round eastern leg, unfortunately put him on the sidelines for the remainder of the season.

In 250 Pro action the final round of the championship proved to be anti-climactic for Shawn Maffienbeier. Despite leading the points chase coming off the western leg of the title hunt, his chances to repeat as champion were in doubt, after a DNF at the second round of the eastern leg in Courtland, Ontario. By the time of the Walton TransCan GNC a top three finish looked about as good as it would get for Maffienbeier. And this was accomplished at the final round, where he put together 5-5 motos for fifth overall on the day. Bad starts in both motos saw him have to claw his way from mid-pack to greet the checkered flag in fifth place.



“It was a season of highs and lows but we managed to persevere and we never let our morale or confidence desert us. Losing Mike after the western rounds was enough to put a damper on things, for sure! That said, Jeremy Medaglia did a good job for us as Mike’s replacement at Round 5, and Jacob came through for us at the last three rounds,” said team manager Adam “Stu” Robinson. “I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to our entire team for the efforts they put forth every week. Thank you to all that have, and continue to support us, as we head into the 2018 SX Tour portion of our series.”

“I am definitely pleased with our results. Everybody on the team pulled their weight to get us into a third place ranking in the 250 and fourth in the 450. A DNF for Tyler and for Shawn definitely wasn’t our friend in the final points but that’s racing. These things happen. As a second-year team owner I certainly can’t complain. You always race to win and you aim for the championship while hoping beneath it all that at least you’ll finish in the top five,” said team owner Gerhart Huber.

Team Monster Energy Alpinestars Piller’s Kawasaki extends their congratulations to Shawn Maffienbeier and Tyler Medaglia for their top five finishes. We’d like to thank our staff members for their hard work and input and all our quality sponsors for helping to make things happen.

The MRC Triple Crown Series continues on Saturday, September 15th, with Round 1 of the 4-round SX Tour at Montreal's Olympic Stadium.

MX Tour Results 450 Pro – Round 9

1. Colton Facciotti (Hon)	2-1
2. Tyler Medaglia (Kaw)	1-4
3. Cole Thompson (KTM)	4-2
4. Matt Goerke (Yam)	3-3
5. Dillan Epstein (Yam)	8-5
6. Jacob Hayes (Kaw)	9-7
7. Cade Clason (Hon)	7-10
8. Felix Lopez (KTM)	5-12
9. Kaven Benoit (KTM)	12-6
10. Liam O'Farrell	11-8

MX Tour Results 250 Pro – Round 9

1. Dylan Wright (Hon)	2-1
2. Jess Pettis (Hon)	1-3
3. Marco Cannella (Yam)	3-4
4. Joey Crown (KTM)	8-2
5. Shawn Maffenbeier (Kaw)	5-5
6. Jyile Mitchell (Yam)	6-6
7. Josh Osby (KTM)	4-12
8. Tanner Ward (KTM)	9-10
9. Kein Denzler (KTM)	14-11
10. Jared Petruska (Hon)	11-11



MX Tour Points Standings after 9 of 9 Rounds

450 Pro

1. Colton Facciotti (Hon)	463 pts
2. Cole Thompson (KTM)	434
3. Matt Goerke (Yam)	422
4. Tyler Medaglia (Kaw)	420
5. Kaven Benoit (KTM)	413
6. Dillan Epstein (Yam)	352
7. Keylan Meston (Husq)	295
8. Cade Clason (Hon)	271
9. Ryan Lalonde (Kaw)	194
10. Cheyenne Harmon (Kaw)	186
12. Mike Alessi (Kaw)	165
17. Jacob Hayes (Kaw)	117

250 Pro

1. Jess Pettis (Yam)	449 pts
2. Joey Crown (KTM)	436
3. Shawn Maffienbeier (Kaw)	412
4. Dylan Wright (Hon)	325
5. Marco Cannella (Yam)	325
6. Josh Osby (KTM)	371
7. Tanner Ward (KTM)	341
8. Jared Petruska (Hon)	257
9. Casey Keast (Yam)	231
10. Hayden Halstead (Yam)	224



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In dedication to Gerhart Huber's youngest son, Kurtis—who has autism—Monster Energy / Alpinestars / Piller's/ Kawasaki will be campaigning the entire MRC Triple Crown Series in support of Autism Awareness.

For more information, please visit: <https://autismawarenesscentre.com/>

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