

With wins on dry mat and Indoors, Weeks leads GBR Series as it heads to Pontypool

Neil McQuoid 29 June 2019 Premium



With victory in the first three Indoor races, Oliver Weeks has given himself a great shot of taking the British Ski Academy sponsored GBR Overall title this summer. Runner up to another rising talent, Toby Case, in Castleford and third in the opening round at Pendle means that Weeks, going number 1 on the Saturday will know what he needs to do to extend his lead in the series by the time he goes out the gate.

Weeks has been in scintillating form on both the dry mat and indoors. Race wins and victory in the Ambition Pro Slalom series have been the result of the hard work he has put in over the years. He has raised his game this year and while past winners like Rob Holmes and Craig Speed are not on the start list this year, Toby Case has been his closest challenger. Case raised his game to win the Indoor race last time out in Castleford but the Aldershot and Excel racer finds himself a hundred points behind Case overall.

With neither winner of the dry mat races so far this season, Chris Corr (Pendle) and Joe Grieve (Hillend) making the trip to Pontypool, Weeks is the leading points racer in the series heading to Pontypool. With Holmes and William Dalziel also not racing, there will be some big points on offer for those willing to risk it and go for it at Pontypool.

At Hillend we saw the Lothian Ski racers dominate the leader board and the podium yet with so few Scots heading south and conversely few English and Welsh heading north, something needs to be done to balance out the numbers. The numbers racing at Hillend were positive despite a large number of races being held on the same day down south. Surely the GBR Series should not have clashes? This is not a great attraction for potential sponsors when the best racers in the series are not travelling up to compete in the premier summer series.

The age groups are as ever keenly contested. In the Under 14 age group Lewis McKey leads the way ahead of Jacob Sundin and Oscar Sadler in third. McKey heads to Pontypool while the other two are missing the trip. Can he wrap up the series age group with a strong showing?

In the Under 16 age group, Isaac Cutting trails Ryrie Hodge in the overall standings but with Cutting the only one of the top four racers in the age group heading to Pontypool, he too could wrap up the age group series with a strong showing. Cutting will be challenged by Jack Upton, Freddie Mellon-Hendry and Jack Furse-Cope for series points.

Toby Case leads the way in the Under 18 race with Josef Huppach and Mikey Dunne in close attendance. Both Huppach and Dunne are string dry mat racers and will push Case and others in search of not only age group points but also for the overall race win.

With Weeks leading the overall and the Under 21 age group, the rest of the age group will be looking for the minor points in the age group. Weeks has set the bar and the rest will have to try to match it.

With strong entries from the Seniors and Masters age groups, certainly in the mens racing, racing does not stop at Under 21!

While the talent is there, it is hard to say whether the ability matches that of racers from by gone eras. Ski technology has changed as has technic. It would be great to see Andrew Watson back measuring himself against the current crop of 'stars'. Last time he came out of retirement he gave them a wake up call!

TAGS:

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british ski academy

castleford

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