

Supercross: Rivals put on a show

Stewart edges Reed, with controversy, to win main event

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The greatest show on dirt lived up to its billing Saturday night -- with a bit of controversy thrown in for good measure.

Those in the announced crowd of 40,612 inside Rice-Eccles Stadium -- cold, rainy weather kept some away -- were treated to explosive motorcycle pyrotechnics as season points leader James Stewart and runner-up Chad Reed dueled through the first 11 laps of the 20-lap main event of the AMA Supercross.

On the 14th lap, a bit of gamesmanship gave Stewart the ultimate edge. David Millsaps finished third.

Coming in, only three points separated the Stewart and Reed. In the end Stewart wound up taking the checkered flag and a six-point advantage going into next week's season finale in Las Vegas.

"It was a fun race," said Stewart, who won this season for the 11th time. "[Reed] was on it tonight. I was able to squeak by." Stewart received some unintentional help when teammate Kyle Chisholm nearly wiped Reed out as Chisholm was being lapped. Chisholm, who was black flagged from the race and faces possible discipline and fines, cost Reed valuable time and possibly the race.

"I tried to put some good laps together," Reed said. "The track broke down. I'm looking forward to next week."

Reed didn't directly address the incident.

"I have no excuses," he said. "I gave it everything I had. It wasn't enough tonight."

Despite Friday's rain, as well as the intermittent showers that pelted the quarter mile track most of Saturday, conditions were not nearly as bad as once feared. The track was still slick, and riders couldn't afford any loss of concentration navigating the jumps and hairpin turns, trying to find the fastest line to the finish.

Both riders won their respective heats. Reed, banging on his handlebar throughout the first heat, won the heat despite a faulty brake/throttle housing.

Reed burst out of the gate on the main event, winning the holeshot -- the all-important first-turn lead -- while Stewart needed three turns to move into second.

From that point, it was a two-man race.

"James and Reed had their own race going," Millsaps said. "They were on their own level."

Reed spent much of the first eight laps holding off Stewart, who would pass and then be passed in exhilarating fashion. Stewart took the lead on an inside move on lap 12, setting up the controversy of lap 14.

"We'll go to Vegas, which is what we want," Stewart said.

In the Supercross Lites West, a "super pumped" Ryan Dungey finished fourth, out of the top three in a tire-bumping competition. But he won the season overall points title, edging Jake Weimer by five points.

"It was a tough fight the whole time," said Dungey, who lost the title last season in the season's final race. "We lost a couple battles, but won the war."

Weimer would have won the overall title had he won instead of placing second.

"I killed myself on the start," he said.

Gray Davenport of Lehi finished 17th in the race of smaller motorcycle engines.

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Results

Top three finishers

Supercross

1. James Stewart (25 points)
2. Chad Reed (22 points)
3. David Millsaps (20 points)

Supercross points leaders

1. James Stewart, 357
2. Chad Reed, 351
3. Andrew Short 257

Supercross Lites

1. Trey Canard (25 points)
2. Jake Weimer (22 points)
3. Ryan Morasis (20 points)

Supercross Lites points winner

1. Ryan Dungey 178
2. Jake Weimer 173
3. Ryan Morais 166

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Storylines

» James Stewart edges Chad Reed amid controversy to up his series points lead to six.

» Some 40,000 fans braved the rain and cold to witness the explosive pyrotechnics at Rice-Eccles Stadium.