

October 26, 2013

**Decision time at the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® World Championship 2013 in Stuttgart**

**An Australian is the best lumberjack sportsman in the world  
Kiwis from New Zealand win team competition**

**Brad De Losa from Australia from now on leads the international ranking list of the top lumberjack athletes. At the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® World Championship 2013, De Losa won three of six competitions wielding axe and saw masterfully and with the best time, thereby standing out clearly from the other competitors. A total of fourteen sportsmen from just as many countries competed at the World Championship in the Porsche Arena in Stuttgart on October 26. On the previous day, the team from New Zealand secured Gold in the team competition ahead of the teams from the United States and Australia. More than 10,000 spectators experienced the adrenaline rush with the athletes on both days of competition in the sold-out event at the Porsche Arena.**

Technical precision, powerful and quick at the same time - this is how the world's fourteen greatest lumberjack sportsmen wielded their axe and saw as a piece of sports equipment at the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® World Championship 2013 in Stuttgart. The winner of this competition of top athletes was Brad De Losa. For the first time, the Australian prevailed over his competitors, and he did this in a clear manner. Second and third place was taken by US-American Matthew Cogar and Czech Martin Komárek. While New Zealand was still in the lead at the Team World Championship the day before, Australia was clearly in a dominating position on the second day of competition. World Champion Brad De Losa was delighted with his win: "Yet my start was a dream. I kept on working hard during the whole competition, and at the end, the dream became true." Runner-up world champion Matt Cogar was moved as well: "What happened

here, was really unbelievable. I am so proud having been part of this competition. One day, I will look back to this moment, keeping an incomprehensibly great experience in mind.”

The 14-strong starting field from Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand fought hard for the title. From the start, Australian Brad De Losa prevailed three of six disciplines with best times and took the lead in the field of competitors. By and by, he extended his lead, showing awesome performances at axe and saw. Finally, he reached for gold, not being really challenged by his competitors. The fight for second, however, remained undecided a long time; US-American Matt Cogar, Czech Martin Komárek and German Robert Ebner fought a neck-and-neck race. But it wasn't until the racing chain saw Hot Saw, that placement was decided, resulting in an ungrateful fourth place for the German. “At the end, it was again the Hot Saw that put a spoke in my wheel”, commented Robert Ebner. “A time of about eight seconds would have been sufficient for me, but I wanted to hurry up. Then, I slipped off the start trigger, that's it. It was simply not to be.” Jason Wynyard from New Zealand, world champion of the previous year, having won the title already five times, ended up in fifth.

During the first round of the competition, athletes competed in the disciplines Underhand Chop (axe), Stock Saw (saw) and Standing Block Chop (axe) to progress to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. The top ten athletes then fought it out in the disciplines Single Buck (hand cross-cut saw) and Springboard (axe). The top six athletes then competed against each other in the final event, the Hot Saw (racing chain saw) discipline. By the end, for World Champion Brad De Losa 77 points after three rounds were enough to win the title. The runner-up and the third placed followed with 69 and 68 points. For the first time, the individual competition in 2013 was held after an initial series of rounds. And so it came down to the best performance in all six disciplines; a poor round and one were out, no matter how strong the performance was in any of the other disciplines.

**Four disciplines transform timber blocks into firewood – in less than a minute**

On October 25, over 100 lumberjack athletes from 23 countries competed for Gold in the Team World Championship of the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Series in Stuttgart. The winners were the New Zealanders. They kept their nerve and gave an outstanding performance with the axe and saw; within 51,74 seconds the four sportsmen transformed just as many timber blocks into firewood, thus missing their own world record of the previous year only by 44 hundredths of a second. This secured 1<sup>st</sup> place for them ahead of the United States who needed only 62 hundredths more.

More than 10,000 spectators experienced the adrenaline rush with the athletes on both days of competition in the sold-out event at the Porsche Arena. The STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® World Championship in 2013 took place for the ninth time and was held for the first time in Stuttgart. The top-class lumberjack sports series had previously taken place in Norway, the Netherlands, Ireland and Austria.

**About the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® series**

The STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Series is an international competition series in lumberjack sports. The sport originated in Australia during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Even then, foresters organized local competitions to find the best in their profession. Over time, these local events then developed into international competitions at the highest sporting level. The STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Series has been going since 1985. Athletes compete in three axe and saw disciplines: Springboard, Underhand Chop and Standing Block Chop are part of the classic axe competitions; with Single Buck (hand cross-cut saw), Stock Saw (conventional chain saw) and Hot Saw (powerful 60 to 80 HP chain saw), athletes wield saws to compete for the best times. Although STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® competitions are multi-event competitions, it is not enough to simply be physically fit and demonstrate technical perfection in one discipline, for only consistently good performances in all three axe and saw disciplines will assure victory.

**Company Portrait**

The STIHL Group develops, manufactures and distributes power tools for forestry, landscape maintenance and the construction industry. The range of garden power tools from VIKING complements the product line. Products are distributed exclusively through authorized dealers, including 33 marketing subsidiaries, about 120 importers and more than 40,000 dealers in over 160 countries. STIHL has been the world's top-selling chain saw brand since 1971. The company was founded in 1926 and is based in Waiblingen near Stuttgart. In 2012, STIHL achieved a worldwide sales volume of 2.78 billion euros with a workforce of 12,338.

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