

South of the Border

The final round of the North American Rally Championship, the Lake Superior Pro Rally has concluded. Unfortunately the much-anticipated duel between defending Champion Pat Richard and experienced challenger Stig Blomquist did not materialize. Citing over spending at the beginning of the season, the David Sutton Motorsports Team chose not to enter the final rally, instead gambling on Stig's 18 point lead in the standings to be sufficient to hold the lead. But suddenly the Italian duo of Alfredo De Dominicis and Massimo

Daddoveri were on hand, a team very capable of matching Pat's pace and perhaps deny him the First Overall finish he would need to take the title at the last moment...

Congratulations Nathalie and Patrick Richard on winning LSPR and successfully defending your status as North American Overall Champions and North American Group N Champions. Well done for 2005!

Rally Team News : Patrick and Nathalie Richard - American Rally Champions - again !



This is a press release reproduced from the RocketRally Team Website.

Houghton, MI, Oct 24, 2005 - Canadian rally driver Patrick Richard clinched the Rally America National Rally Championship in style this past weekend, by taking victory at the Lake Superior Rally held in Houghton, MI. In total control for the entire event, Richard and his co-driving sister, Nathalie Richard, led the high speed rally from start to finish, with the resultant victory giving them the overall Rally America Driver's and Co-driver's Championship titles.

"This is an exceptional result for the team, one which we had to fight tooth and nail for all year," explained Richard. With former World Rally champion Stig Blomquist featuring as a regular in the Rally America championship, as well as a pair of factory backed Subarus for motocross star Travis Pastrana and Ken Block, the brother and sister team was under-funded by an order of magnitude but demonstrated sheer determination and outright speed to win the championship.

"This year we had a few mechanical problems, which were a direct result of our lower budget, but despite that we were as fast or faster than all of the other teams in the championship. We fought for the lead in every event we entered. We had victory snatched from

our grasp not once, but twice, at Pikes Peak and at the Ojibwe Forests Rally, where both times we had last stage mechanical failures while leading over Stig. Nobody has been quicker than us in terms of raw speed, its just been about the funding." With a tall order requiring them to win the last two rounds outright, and with no opportunity for a second place at either event, the team raised their game and defeated Blomquist's highly regarded team, UK-based David Sutton Cars, at the Colorado Cog Rally by a close margin of just 0.4 seconds. This last weekend's victory over Travis Pastrana at Lake Superior sealed the championship.

"Pastrana and his factory backed Subaru have not figured in our results this year," he added. "They have never actually beaten us in a rally, but they have tremendous commercial support for obvious reasons, so its extra satisfying to have beaten both the former World Rally Champion and the team that is drawing the most commercial support from within North America."

This is the second overall American Rally Championship for the Richards, and Patrick is also a two-time Canadian overall champion. Richard started rallying in late 1999, winning his first national class championships in 2000. Between the brother and sister team, they have won over 15 national and

continental rally championship titles in the last 5 years. "This year we demonstrated that we had the determination, the outright pace, and the professionalism to beat one of the best teams in the world. We are in fact the team that can do more with less, and our short-handed crew has worked hard for these victories. We hope that this year's results lead to opportunities for us to get onto the international and world stage in the future, to see what we can do with the right resources in hand."

Richard's British Columbia based team, Rocket Rally, was supported this year by DMS North America, OMP, Globalstar, Compomotive Wheels, Motul Lubricants and NASIOC.com. A multi-race deal finalized mid-season saw Rocket Rally partner up with Easy Street Motorsports / SPT Subaru Performance, which enabled the team to make the high profile events in Colorado and California. "We are working hard to finalize our program for 2006, where we would like to see Patrick back on the World stage at at least two events, and at the same time be back to defend his North American titles."

The Lake Superior Rally and the entire Rally America Championship is televised internationally on OLN, the Outdoor Life Network. Check your local listings for details. Print ready photos and media information is available at