

PROCESSOR



Machine Operator
Kevin Downes

Log Handler
None

Time
21 min. 43 sec.

Cords Processed
1.5

Cords/Hour
4.1

Timberwolf Pro MP

KEVIN DOWNES of Magnolia, Ohio, knows the firewood business. Twenty years ago, he and his father started out with a firewood splitter mounted on a farm tractor. Five years ago, they purchased a Timberwolf firewood processor from Brownwood Sales in nearby Sandusky to meet the increasing demand. Tom Brown, president of the dealership, felt that Kevin would be the perfect person to take the controls of the Timberwolf Pro MP machine this year. For his part, Tom operated the grapple loader and kept an eye on his machine. Even though Kevin was used to a different model, he adapted quickly to the Pro MP. “The controls are the same, but they moved two levers, so I had to remember that. I just had to pay attention and make sure I went for the right lever so I

didn’t lose any time.”

Kevin and Tom had no difficulties in moving the 5,500-pound machine through the mud into the competition area. Kevin lowered the 8-foot live deck with the electric winch, while Tom moved the grapple loader in place with the 15 logs. While the

“I really love these shows where you can actually see the machinery running. Hopefully, I’ll be out there next time around.”—Kevin Downes

36-hp Yanmar diesel engine warmed up, Tom loaded as many logs as the deck could hold, and then waited for the signal to start.

The Pro MP is a fully hydraulic mill with no automated features. The



length gauge for the blocks is a hanging chain. When the log touches the chain, it is in position to be cut to length. The Timberwolf clamps the log for cutting with an hourglass-shaped top roller that keeps a constant pressure on the log as it moves forward on the infeed conveyer. This helps keep the log centered on the cutting deck and clamps the log while the 0.404 commercial harvester bar cuts off the block of firewood. Kevin says he is impressed by how tough these chain saw bars are, and that he typically runs for two days between sharpenings when using the machine full-time. "I can swap out the chain in less than 5 minutes, and always keep spares on hand in case I hit dried mud or a rock." He felt that using a knuckle-boom loader instead of a forklift helped keep the logs cleaner

and his blade sharper throughout the competition.

The 6-second cycle time on the log splitter kept up its pace throughout the event, as Kevin advanced the wood and controlled the saw with one hand and the splitter with the other, keeping both in operation at the same time. Kevin used the optional 6-way wedge for the event, and with the hydraulic adjustment, kept it centered on the logs to keep a consistent size of firewood moving up the out-feed conveyer for the 21 minutes, 43 seconds, that it took to process the 15 logs into a cord and a half of firewood.

The wood flowed through the machine with no hang-ups or jams, and the team did not take any time-outs. Kevin says that the crooked logs posed no problems. "These logs at the competition were pretty optimal to

make firewood," he said. As far as the competition itself, he said, "I really love these shows where you can actually see the machinery running. Hopefully, I'll be out there next time around." ■



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