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Luke Ellery Takes Round Honours at Winton

When the going gets tough, the tough get going and that is what Victorian Formula Ford 1600 championship contender, Luke Ellery, did to extend his lead in the 2008 championship.

After a week that saw Luke join fellow CAMS Rising Star hopefuls at the AIS in Canberra, Luke headed to Winton for the Friday practice session hoping to cap off a good week with another round win.

Friday practice proved to be a frustrating affair with the team battling an understeer problem. The difficult and changing track conditions at Winton were not helping but lap times were promising despite the unbalanced car.

Going into the first official practice session, Ellery's car was still not handling the way he wanted but that didn't stop him from posting the fastest lap time. With a few of the top drivers from the NSW championship making an appearance and less than a second between the top 5 competitors the round win was not going to come easy.

After a promising practice session, qualifying proved to be disappointing with Ellery posting the 4th fastest time putting him on the second row of the grid behind former championship winner and Fujitsu Series runner Taz Douglas, closely followed by the NSW series invaders Nathan Morcom and Nick Tanti.

After a clean start in Race 1, Ellery pushed hard despite the continuing understeer problem, and managed to maintain his position finishing a credible 4th ahead of series contender Andrew Beams.

The team got to work trying to find the balance in the setup and dividends paid off in Race 2 with more speed being found. After starting in 4th position on the grid Luke worked his way to 2nd behind Tanti but still ahead of rival Andrew Beams and in doing so collected more valuable points and extending his championship lead.

The team made some dramatic changes before the final triple points race and it payed off. After a good start, Luke hit the lead and stretched away from the field, only to take a commanding win.

The race win secured the round win with Ellery yet again confirming his ability behind the wheel against the toughest field seen in this year's series.

"We struggled with the car setup all weekend but I am happy that we found the problem and I was able to take out another round win. My championship is looking healthy and I am looking forward for another 3 strong finishes this year", said a relieved Ellery.

Luke now leads the championship by 24 points from nearest rival Andrew Beams setting the stage for what is to be a thrilling championship showdown at Phillip Island.

Luke would like to thank his family for the ongoing support, major sponsor National Metal Recyclers, Borland Racing Developments and Lerner Race engines.

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