

It's either Make or Break this Weekend in NSW Formula Ford 1600 Championship:

With Leigh Burges holding down a slender lead after three rounds of the 2009 NSW Formula Ford 1600 Championship; the fourth round is to be fought out this weekend (July 4 and 5) at Sydney's Eastern Creek Raceway.

Although the NSW Championship is only half run, the driver's minds are focused on the end of year overall title and the ultimate prize of winning a V8 Supercar test drive with the Sydney based Sieders Racing team.

In what will be the NSW Championship's second appearance of the year at the Eastern Creek Raceway circuit; Burges can certainly head into the round with plenty of confidence after he dominated the opening round in April at the circuit. Burges was untouchable during the opening round where he qualified on pole position and took out three comprehensive race wins. If Burges can repeat his opening round result this weekend then it would see him consolidate his lead in the NSW Championship point standings and make it even harder for his rivals to peg him back.

Although he didn't enjoy the best of starts to his NSW Championship campaign during the opening round; Burges' main NSW Championship threat in Daniel Lewis has set his sights on regaining the NSW Championship lead. The opening round started in the worst possible fashion for Lewis, where he suffered a damaged rear end during Friday practice and it saw him have to lease a car from the Anglo Australian Motorsport team stable, and although he still managed to finish second overall that round he is focused on recording his maiden round victory of the year and most importantly taking back control of the NSW Championship point standings lead.

In a welcome boost to the NSW Championship this round, a total of six Western Australian racers have made the trek across the Nullarbor and are keen to show their East Coast rivals how it's done. Along with Craig Willis, Fastlane Racing has entered five cars for the likes of Rhys and Jake McNally, Ben-Lee D'Limi, Richard Bloomfield and Bryce Moore.

Rookie Adam Leung made a fabulous Formula Ford debut at the opening round and the Anglo Australian Motorsport supported driver capped it off by finishing third on the podium. There is no doubt that Leung is setting his sights on the podium once again and if his opening performance is any indication he is more than capable of landing a podium finish once again.

'Historic' class runner Garry Watson proved during the previous NSW Championship round, where he finished second overall, that despite being in older model machinery that he has the ability to be a leading contender. Watson returns to the NSW Championship for this weekend's round, which is only going to be his second appearance of the year, aiming to duplicate his form from the last round.

At the opening round of the NSW Championship Russell Newell showed plenty of promise in what was without a doubt the best performance of his Formula Ford career by running inside the top three in both race one and two before disappointingly slipping back to fourth, due to a spin, during the third and final race. After sitting out the last round, Newell is really looking forward to getting back to the Eastern Creek circuit and hopefully being a top three contender.

Amongst the other runners this weekend are the likes of David Chitty, Jason Liddell, Derryn Harrison, Don Holland, Doug Matley, and the return of both youngster Tom Tweedie and Team Sydney driver Alan Price.

Apart from the speed of Garry Watson in the Historic class expect to see drivers such as current NSW Champion Cas Galjaardt, John Pymble, Stephen Weller and Martin Dunlop having their own battles in their respective class.

This weekend's fourth round of the NSW Formula Ford 1600 Championship is to see qualifying and race one on Saturday, followed by race two and three being fought out on the Sunday.

For more information about the NSW Formula Ford 1600 Championship or Eastern Creek Raceway visit: www.ff1600.org.au or www.eastern-creek-raceway.com

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