

Burges Wins Again, as Western Australian Visitors Impress:

The inclusion of six Western Australian based competitors certainly spiced up the action during last weekend's fourth round of the NSW Formula Ford 1600 Championship at Eastern Creek Raceway but the victory honours still managed to go the way of current championship leader Leigh Burges.

Not only did Burges' extend his round victory tally to three and also his race win tally to nine, he also built up a comfortable margin in the NSW Championship point standings in what is his biggest point's gap of the year.

Apart from Burges' dominance throughout the weekend, which resulted in him topping the time sheets in qualifying and then winning all three races, he was kept honest by Western Australian driver Rhys McNally. After qualifying third, the Fastlane Racing driver recorded second places behind Burges in all three races. In fact, during the second race on Sunday morning McNally traded the lead on a number of occasions with Burges before the latter was able to finally pull away and score the win.

One of the other Western Australian visitors to give the NSW Championship regulars a real shakeup was Ben-Lee D'Limi. D'Limi qualified towards the bottom of the top 10 in eighth but showed great speed as he became more accustomed with the daunting and fast flowing Eastern Creek Raceway circuit to finish fifth in the opening race and then an impressive third in the second race. The weekend for D'Limi ended in disappointment when he failed to finish the third and final race due to spinning off the circuit in turn one on the second lap.

Despite not being right up there mixing it with the front runners, fellow Western Australian's Bryce Moore and Jake McNally proved they could well and truly hold their own running inside the top 10. Qualifying fifth and then backing that up with a fourth place finish in the opening race on Saturday afternoon; Moore was in the wars in both race two and three. Penalised for jumping the start in the second race, with a drive through, Moore was handed a 60 second penalty as well by the chief steward due to not obeying the black flag immediately and finished back in 19th. The third and final race Moore was working his way through the field only to have a coming together with NSW Championship rookie of the year contender Adam Leung in turn nine and was given another 60 second penalty post race by the chief steward and that left him as a 14th place finisher. The other McNally, Jake, performed strongly all weekend and showed his progression in speed by ending the weekend with a fifth place finish in the final race.

Craig Willis and Richard Bloomfield, the other two Western Australian visitors, enjoyed their NSW Championship debut and drove consistently to record their strongest results in the final race.

Making a cameo appearance in the NSW Championship was Tom Tweedie, driving a RF86 Van Diemen, and he proved he had plenty of pace despite being in an older model car. The Formula 3 driver ran inside the top 10 in qualifying and all three races. Tweedie capped off the weekend with a great result during the final race with a third place finish on the podium. Running as part of the 'Pre 1990' class Tweedie came out on top in the class ahead of 70-year-old veteran Don Holland and Doug Mately. Recently, Mately updated to a Pre-90 Reynard and made a great debut with the car, finishing just outside the top 10 all weekend.

The closest rival in the NSW Championship, Daniel Lewis, had a weekend he would rather to forget and it has thrown his championship aspirations into disarray. Lewis, who had qualified second and finished third in the opening race, was let down by mechanical failures in both race two and three.

Another driver to be struck down by some bad luck was Adam Leung. After showing great pace early in the weekend, running well inside the top 10, Leung had a coming together with Western Australian driver Bryce Moore and it resulted in him failing to finish.

Both NSW Championship regulars Derryn Harrison and Jason Liddell recorded their best results of the year and this is no doubt going to build their confidence for the remaining two rounds.

Rookie David Chitty had a horror start to the weekend, due to suffering a busted oil line on the opening lap of qualifying, but fought his way back to finish the third and final race inside the top 10.

Russell Newell, who had a career best run at the opening round earlier this year at Eastern Creek Raceway, returned to the NSW Championship after missing the previous round and was disappointed not to be able to duplicate his podium run from the opening round. Newell was around or inside the top 10 throughout all three races.

Team Sydney driver Alan Price made his first appearance in the NSW Championship this year and he recorded his best finish of the weekend with a fourth place finish in the final race.

In the 'Historic' class John Pymble came out on top by finishing all three races as the highest of his class runners ahead of Stephen Weller and defending NSW Champion in the class Cas Galjaardt.

With Burges establishing his lead and his grip on the V8 Supercar test drive with the Sieders Racing team it will be all happening at the fifth and penultimate round of the NSW Formula

Ford 1600 Championship that is to be held on the weekend of September 12 and 13 at Goulburn's Wakefield Park Raceway.

To find out more information about the NSW Formula Ford 1600 Championship visit their official website: www.ff1600.org.au

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