

Luke Ellery Tames Sandown For Round Win

Young gun Luke Ellery has firmly positioned himself as the man to beat in the CAMS Victorian State Formula Ford Championship after taking out Round 1 at Sandown Raceway.

Finding pace quickly in his Spectrum 010 was the key to success with a positive Friday practice session showing Ellery was on the pace from the time the car hit the track. A few minor chassis tweaks and the team was ready to race.

Saturday qualifying was proving to be difficult for a few newcomers but Ellery, in his second season of Formula Ford, settled in to take pole position on amazingly his second lap. The following lap was proving to be even faster but a slight excursion off track entering the main straight lead to a kiss with the tyre barrier damaging the lap time but not the car.

The second qualifying session confirmed Ellery's pole position but a hard charging Leigh Nicolaou in his Van Diemen chassis was proving to be on the pace and a contender to keep an eye on.

Ellery and Nicolau started Race 1 side by side with a battle of wills at the end of the long Sandown straight being won by Ellery. After a few safety car interventions, a two lap dash was on between Nicolaou and Ellery with a slip streaming Nicolaou finding his way into the lead. Running wheel to wheel for the two laps, Ellery found a way in front to cross the finish and take the win. He was later told that the officials had incorrectly counted the laps and Nicolaou had won race 1 on a count back.

Sunday brought fine weather and a positive outlook after a strong performance in Race 1. Ellery knew he could go one better though and in Race 2 he proved that. Starting on the front row, Ellery entered the first turn in front and it stayed that way for the rest of the race.

The triple points final race was a must finish for Ellery, whose sights are firmly set on the championship win. Despite 6 laps out of 10 being run under safety car conditions, Luke managed to keep a level head and take the race win and round win.

"Consistency was the key to the team's success this weekend, but my goal is firmly set on winning the championship and improving my performance round after round", said an excited Ellery.

Ellery's consistent, professional driving and well prepared car have made him the man to beat in 2008.

Luke would like to thank his family, supporters Borland Racing Developments and Larner Engines, along with GMP Racing Products and LA Designs for their support in 2008.

For further information on Luke Ellery visit www.luke-ellery.com .

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