

Jack's Dunlop V8 Supercar Series Perth Race Wrap...

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After a long 6-months since my last V8 Supercar race at the Supercheap Auto Bathurst 1000 in October last year, it was excellent to put a deal together to compete in the Dunlop V8 Supercar Series on the weekend in Perth.

Having missed the opening round of the Series at Adelaide in March, the Perth event was somewhat of a last-minute deal to be on the grid. It was also a last minute deal for the team, Eggleston Motorsport, to

secure the last of the Triple Eight built Holden VE Commodores from Tekno Autosport, the car driven by Jonathon Webb in the 2013 V8 Supercar Championship Series.

Unfortunately we weren't able to complete a test day in the car before the event, however we were allowed a 10-lap shakedown at Calder Park, three days before the team transporter left for the long trek across the Nullabor.

Two 40-minute practice sessions on Friday at the Barbagallo Raceway in Perth would be the first opportunity to drive the car at full speed. We made steady progress with the new car in both sessions, finishing with the 18th and 8th fastest times respectively.

Qualifying on Saturday morning would determine the grid for the first 18-lap Race that afternoon. The overnight adjustments to the set-up of the #54 Holden Commodore assisted finding more speed around the short Barbagallo track and after the first run on new tyres were comfortably in the top 6.

As the field moved onto the second set of tyres, we made some further adjustments and had one more run on the first tyre set. As we commenced our flying lap on the second tyre set, the timing system "lit up" showing the fastest first sector, and then the fastest second sector, putting us on target for a laptime to net us a top 2 or 3 starting position.

Unfortunately another competitor ended up stuck in the gravel trap at the final corner and the red flag was displayed, meaning the session was "paused" and our lap had to be aborted. This meant the best part of the new tyre advantage was gone, and the result was an 11th place grid position for the first race.

Starting Race One from 11th wasn't what we had hoped for, however our car speed suggested we were capable of being well inside the top 5 or 6, but it was important to steer clear of the mid-field accidents and get to the finish. I made a great start, moving forward several places through turn one and two, however I had to avoid an accident between Casey Stoner and Steve Owen, which lost me two places. The remainder of the race was largely uneventful, and we finished in 9th position.

The grid for Race Two is a reverse grid top 10, which meant we would start from the front row, in second place. I made a good start, grabbing the lead into the first corner. We had a bit of pressure from behind throughout the race, but we managed to lead every lap and cross the finish line in first place, for my fifth race win in the V8 Supercars Development Series.





Grid Positions for Race Three are combined points from the first two 18-lap races. This would see the #54 Holden start from fifth. I made another good start, but got squeezed to the grass on the inside on the run into turn one, which saw me drop back to sixth. After getting hit in the rear at turn six on the first lap, which dropped us back to seventh, the race was relatively straight forward and held stations to cross the finish line in seventh.

All in all it was a successful weekend, great to pick up a race win, and even better to be back racing in a V8 Supercar.

On Saturday night we picked up Sherriffs Mini Cars as a major sponsor for Sunday, so thank you to Geoff Sherriff for the support.

Also a big thank you to Mark Griffith from Griffith Corporation, and the whole team at Eggleston Motorsport for the opportunity to race the car, hopefully we can be back on the grid for Round 3 in Townsville in 8 weeks' time.



Results:

Qualifying

1st	Steve Owen	MWR
2nd	Ash Walsh	MSR
11th	Jack Perkins	 Eggleston Motorsport

Race One - 18 Laps

1st	Ash Walsh	MSR
2nd	Dale Wood	MWR
9th	Jack Perkins	 Eggleston Motorsport

Race Two - 18 Laps

1st	Jack Perkins	 Eggleston Motorsport
2nd	George Miedecke	MSR
3rd	Andrew Jones	BJR

Race Three - 20 Laps

1st	Dale Wood	MWR
2nd	Ash Walsh	MSR
7th	Jack Perkins	 Eggleston Motorsport

Barbagallo Raceway - Round Results

1st	Ash Walsh	274 points	MSR
2nd	Dale Wood	268 points	MWR
3rd	Taz Douglas	235 points	Image Racing
7th	Jack Perkins	 204 points	 Eggleston Motorsport

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