

KANGA UTES IN TOP 5 AT ADELAIDE

Thursday, 1st March 2007

Kanga Loaders drivers and crews were both well pleased with their 2007 season debut at Adelaide's sensational Clipsal 500 carnival, with Chris Pither 4th (and the fastest Falcon) and Yanis Derums 5th at the end of today's two practice sessions. A very hot day and huge crowds of spectators greeted the crews for the opening round of the Yokohama V8 Ute series, and more of the same is tipped for Friday.



Chris Pither in Practe session 1.

PRACTICE SESSION 1

42: Chris Pither

After a half-day's practice at the Mallala circuit north of Adelaide yesterday, Pither was happy with his Kanga Loaders Falcon XR8 Ute. 'It was quick enough up there and it seems alright here,' Pither said. The 'Kud' spent most of the heavily trafficked 20-minute session bedding in brake pads and rotors and got some clear laps towards the end to set a respectable time.

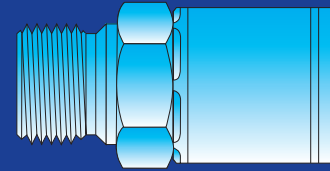
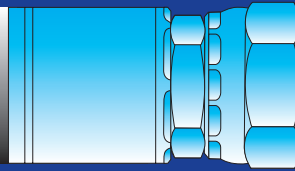
'This track might suit the Holden's better because of the gear ratios. I'm the only Ford in the top 8 in this session,' commented the young Kiwi, adding, 'I'm just looking forward to getting back out on the track and racing – and having some fun !'

41: Yanis Derums

In his usual understated way, after his first practice session of the year Derums admitted, 'I didn't really get it cranking.' The session didn't start as well as the team would have liked. Needing to 'road' some tyres the Kanga Loaders Holden SS Ute had wheel nut problems. To add insult to injury, the scrutineers weren't happy with the result on the tyres and Derums will have further 'roading' work to do in session two.

As ever, Yanis was completely confident on the way the weekend was heading, saying, 'Apart from my not getting it cranking, the car feels pretty good, and I'm sure it'll all come good.'

Results: 1 Baxter, 2 Harris, 3 Kovacs, 4 Kingsley, 5 Pither, 6 Kiss, 7 Johnson, 8 Jane, 9 Palmer, 10 Moorhead, 11 Derums



PRACTICE SESSION 2



Ready for Racing at Clipsal 500.

42: Chris Pither

Pretty happy with his speed in Practice 1, Pither's crew left the car untouched for the second session. No more bedding in of brakes, so 'The Kud' was able to 'have a real go'.

He believes the Kanga Loaders Falcon has some more left in it for tomorrow's qualifying session. His summation: 'My quickest time was near the end of the session when the car was hot and had "gone off". I worked a few things out (about how it was handling). Tomorrow I might be able to get a bit more out of the Ute in the earlier laps of qualifying.' As Pither was only half a second behind the fastest Ute on track, anything is possible.

41: Yanis Derums

Derums' confidence at the end of session one was well founded, succinctly summing up his second session thus: 'the car is handling beautifully. I had a good go and I enjoyed it,' adding in his unassuming way, 'If you have a good car it makes it a whole lot easier.'

The only cloud over a silver-lined day was the engine of the Kanga Loaders SS Commodore running very hot at the end of the session. The team is really hoping that it's not cooked, although they do have a spare if that is the case.

Results: 1 Kovacs, 2 Harris, 3 Baxter, 4 Pither, 5 Derums, 6 Palmer, 7 Johnson, 8 Kingsley, 9 Elsegood, 10 Jane

Chris Pither and Yanis Derums will line up their Kanga Loaders V8 Utes at Adelaide's Clipsal 500 Carnival on Friday, 2 March, for Qualifying and Race 1 (8 laps); on Saturday for Race 2 (8 laps); and on Sunday for Race 3 (8 laps).

In Australia, see V8 Ute Race 2 live from Clipsal on Channel 7's live V8 Supercar coverage commencing at 12 noon catch all the V8 Ute action on Channel 7's V8 Ute program at 12.30 on Saturday, 17 March. Check your local guides for details.

The V8 Utes will be telecast in New Zealand on TV NZ's One Sport, with times yet to be determined.