

PITHER TOP 5 RESULT

Adelaide: Friday, 2 March 2007

Another huge crowd at the Clipsal Carnival was treated to a great show by the Ford and Holden V8 Utes. Paint swapping was in abundance and the hammers will be out tonight straightening out the body panels. A great qualifying effort by the two Kanga Loaders drivers placed them 2nd and 7th on the grid for Race 1.

Pither came off second best in a couple of Race 1 encounters in and, like the fierce air temperatures, Derums' engine overheated and expired after a loss of coolant.



Only 6 hundredths of a second behind pole.

QUALIFYING:

42: Chris Pither

'The Kud' stuck to his plan to do a quick lap early – and it worked!. Grid position 2 – front row of the grid on only the second lap, and only six-hundredth of a second behind pole position!

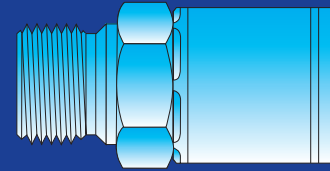
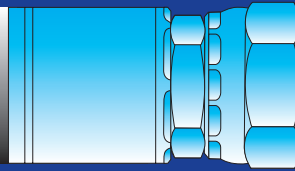
Pither's summation: 'I got out there and did a reasonably good time, I was behind Charlie Kovacs when he dropped oil or water on the first lap and that slowed me down a bit. The track went away a bit after that, but Ryal Harris managed to just beat me on his last lap'.

41: Yanis Derums

Grid position 7 and less than half a second from pole meant Derums was very happy with his own efforts and those of his team. Less than eight-tenths of a second covered the first 10 grid positions, an indication of how tight things are at the top.

Yesterday's overheating issue was tracked to a faulty thermostat, now replaced. Derums: 'I was very happy with that. We didn't get a chance to weigh the car; I think we had about 20 kgs too much fuel. I wish it had been a bit lighter. I don't think the engine has lost anything by way of power, it's just a bit rattly.

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



RACE 1:

42: Chris Pither

Pither didn't squander his front row grid position and held onto 2nd for most of the first lap. As we all know, V8 Ute racing is not for the faint-hearted; panel rubbing is par for the course. On the entry to the hairpin at the end of the straight Crambrook dived in deep under brakes and, using the side of the Kanga Loaders Falcon as a bit of extra retardation, pushed Pither to the outside also allowing Johnson by, Chris ending lap 1 in 4th.

Baxter slipped by under brakes on lap 2, 'The Kud' believing that the slightly lighter Commodores can go much deeper under brakes and that, towards the end of the races in particular, the Ford's brakes 'go off' more than their archrivals' do.

On lap 3 Ryal Harris' demise from leading the pack elevated Pither to 4th, where he remained until lap 6, when Kingsley repeated Crambrook's lap 1 manoeuvre at the hairpin – the Kanga Loaders Falcon again being used as additional brakes by a competitor – this time allowing Kingsley and Palmer by.

Apart from feeling a little 'bashed' by the competition, Pither was happy with the car and is looking forward to Saturday's Race 2, the starting grid for which has the first 50 per cent of the field from Race 1 starting in reverse order. 'That should be interesting,' said Chris Wryly.

41: Yanis Derums

Not a particularly good start is the nice description of Yanis getting off the line. He lost at least three positions, but then it all clicked. In Derums' words, 'The car was haulin' like a train.' On lap 3 his Kanga Loaders Commodore set the second fastest lap time of the race, climbing from 10th to 7th that lap and to 6th on lap 3, a position he also held for lap 4.

Then the engine that got a bit hot in Friday's second practice session started to overheat again – not helped by air temperatures in the high 30s. 'The engine started to make a ticking noise and I saw the temperature gauge rising, rising. All of a sudden it dropped and I thought it had sorted itself out, but a lap after that it just stopped,' he commented ruefully. Later inspection showed a cooling system hose had blown off causing the loss of all coolant, the engine grinding to a halt.

The team is freighting a spare engine from its Wollongong base, but is uncertain of making Saturday's Race 2 noon start.

Race 1 Results:

Pos	Driver	Vehicle
1	Crambrook	Falcon XR8
2	Johnson	Commodore SS
3	Kingsley	Commodore SS
4	Palmer	Falcon XR8
5	Pither	Falcon XR8
6	Dontas	Falcon XR8
7	Elsegood	Falcon XR8
8	Robinson	Falcon XR8
9	Fisher	Falcon XR8
10	Jane	Commodore SS
DNF	Derums	Commodore SS



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