

RACE 1 PODIUM FINISH FOR DERUMS

Melbourne: Thursday, 15 March 2007

Almost a repeat of the Clipsal heat greeted the crews for this non-championship round of the V8 utes at the first day of the Australian Grand Prix meeting in Albert Park, close to the Melbourne CBD.

Chris 'The Kud' Pither didn't have one of his best days in his Kanga Loaders Falcon, ending up in the kitty litter in Qualifying and suffering severe brake problems half way through Race 1.

'Caviar' Derums was on the pace all day: 3rd in Practice; 4th in Qualifying; and a podium finish 3rd in Race 1 – his highest ever finish in the V8 Utes series.



PRACTICE 1:

Both Kanga Loaders drivers were happy with their only practice session for this event, finishing 3rd and 5th in the 26 car field.

42: Chris Pither

'The track was really slippery as there had been only two sessions before us, so there was no rubber [laid down on the track] and no grip at all out there. I think the times will pick up with each run.

'I don't think the tyres were that flash on my car and I had traffic most of the time, so I didn't get any really clear laps.

'I know I can get a fair bit more out of it.'

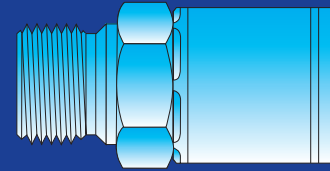
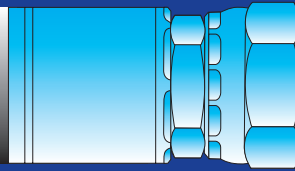
41: Yanis Derums

Yanis was very pleased with his third-fastest time, although he admitted that he had fairly good tyres on.

'It was very hot out there; if anything, hotter than Clipsal. The engine temperature was going up, though not as bad as at Clipsal [where he cooked an engine].

'The car didn't feel very good; it was very under steery. In my four laps I knocked some temperature into the tyres. I was surprised.'

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



QUALIFYING:

'Caviar' Derums was very happy with his second row of the grid on what is his third time at the Albert Park circuit. Chris was disappointed, and admitted to trying a bit too hard when baulked by a slower car, ending up in the kitty litter, but managing to salvage a fifth-row start.

42: Chris Pither

'I stuffed up. I was on the third lap, which was my best chance of a good time [because of tyre pressure and wear].

'I caught up to a slow car on the approach to the third last corner, the 90 degree right-hander. I didn't want to back out of it but, because he was half way round the corner, I didn't have room. I lost the back end and slid off the outside of the corner and got bogged in the gravel trap. That caused the red flag.

'When I was able to restart I had only two laps to put down a time, and that was the best I could do.'

41: Yanis Derums

'I'm very happy with that. The car felt really good.

'When the red flag came out I went to the pits and we let some air pressure out of the rears. I ended up with only a slightly faster time than my second lap of the session, but the car felt much better. I'll go with that setting for the race.'

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



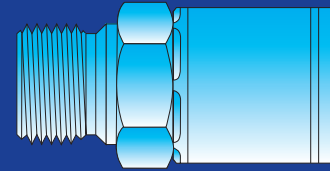
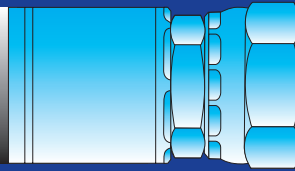
RACE 1:

(8 laps)

A very solid run from Yanis in his Kanga Loaders Holden, elevating himself to 3rd at the end of the first lap, only to be overtaken by a very hard-charging Elsegood.

A very promising start for 'The Kud', who after starting 10th was in 5th by the end of lap 2 and putting pressure on his Kanga Loaders team mate. But his brakes let him down half way through and he greeted the chequer a disappointing 9th.

Ryal Harris was second at race end, but was disqualified for being under weight, elevating all behind him one position up the result sheet.



RACE 1 (Continued)

42: Chris Pither

'My start was pretty good and I passed Baxter and Jane on the first lap. The car felt really good, and I was catching the guys in front.

'I managed to get by Luff and Zukanovic on the next lap, and I could see I was catching Yanis and the three ahead of him.

'On lap 5 the brakes faded and I ended up with next to no brakes. I couldn't do the time and I couldn't hold the position; I just went backwards down the field.

'I'm not sure what caused it, but we'll have to have a look tonight and I'll see what I can do in tomorrow's reverse grid race [where the first 16 finishers of Race 1 start Race 2 in reverse order].'

41: Yanis Derums

'I got up to 3rd on the first lap. Even though Elsegood got by on the second, I knew this was going to be my best-ever result in Utes, so I was pretty determined not to give it away.

'I decided not to risk having an "off" by challenging for 3rd. But I needed to nurse the car to the end because the temperature was getting up to 120 degrees again.

'Yes, I was quite happy with that.'

But 'Caviar' Derums ended up 3rd anyway when Harris was disqualified from his 2nd.

Race 1 Results:

Chris Pither and Yanis Derums will line up their Kanga Loaders V8 Utes at Melbourne's Australian Grand Prix meeting on Friday, 16 March, for Race 2 (6 laps); and on Saturday for Race 3 (8 laps).

In Oz, catch all the V8 Ute action from Adelaide's Clipsal meeting on Channel 7's V8 Ute program at 12.30 pm next 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.

RACE 1 RESULTS

Pos	Driver	Vehicle
1	Johnson	Holden SS
2	Elsegood	Falcon BF
3	Derums	Holden SS
4	Kingsley	Holden SS
5	Jane	Holden SS
6	Zukanovic	Holden SS
7	Crambrook	Falcon BF
8	Pither	Holden SS
9	Baxter	Holden SS
10	Fisher	Falcon BF