

Podiums are within reach of Bristow

Arguably the best rookie in the field in this season's BNT V8's, TexOnsite driver Michael Bristow had a great start to the season with a fifth overall at the first round at Taupo at the beginning of October.

At twenty one years old, Bristow has already accomplished a lot in a V8, coming into the series as the current 2007/08 V8 Development champion. His aim this season is to get onto the podium.

So impressive was he last year in the V8 Development Series that Richards Team Motorsport approached him to take over from Cameron McLean in the TexOnsite Ford Falcon for the remaining three rounds of the NZV8s (Timaru, Invercargil and Hamilton). "Those rounds were an eye opener and gave me a real understanding of the car and the calibre of drivers that I am racing with," said Bristow.

"Our first aim at Taupo this year was a top ten qualifying position and then to move further up the field in each race. With qualifying mid field you then have to spend a lot of time just moving through the traffic," Bristow commented looking back at the first round earlier this month. But this didn't go according to plan. "We made a big big call (near the end of the second qualifying session to determine the top 10 qualifiers) to come in and change tyres with not enough time in the session left. By the time we got out we only got one fast lap in and not three which would have been better."

This immediately put the team on the back foot going into race one. Starting from fourteenth Bristow's comments had come back to haunt him in that he now had to work his way through the pack. This is what he did finishing ninth in the first race. This result gave them a better starting grid position for race two, finishing seventh and then he was placed eighth in the third and final race.

"We are thrilled with the result", commented team manager Steve Richards. "We know we have a good car and Michael stayed out of trouble and worked his way through the traffic. In our experience it is all about consistency".

And what about the next round at Pukekohe?

Bristow's replied "again it will be to qualify in the top ten and move up the field. We will be working very hard to get up to the top of the field." And he thinks that he has an advantage to accomplish this:

"I've had hundreds of laps around the track. I do a lot of driver training and hot laps and every couple of weeks I take my own car around the track. It's all about keeping the miles up."

His first racing at Pukekohe was four years ago in a V8 Development car, "all my racing at Puke has been in a V8. We know that we have the straight line speed so it is a matter of getting the drive off the Castrol corner onto the back straight."

And what of the TexOnsite Team, "the real strength of the Richards team is the cohesion. Every one gets on and it is an extremely positive environment. They are very very good to work with and nothing is a problem. They have had a number of years experience at this level and they know the pit falls"

No doubt this all adds up to seeing the young rising star to accomplish his next goal, "...to get the team onto the rostrum."

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