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Tough, wet and motivating..

Friday 23rd May 2008

Despite being hampered by engine irregularities and caught between transient weather conditions, Piccola Scuderia Corse (PSC) have again proved their pace, being fastest 10 out of the last 18 official sessions in the Australian Formula 3 Championship, and only a meagre 4 points behind in the title fight. Neil McFadyen managed to outqualify the field in dry conditions whilst driving through engine tantrums to snatch both pole position, and muster a considerable points haul.

With four rounds remaining in the championship (excluding the 2008 Gold Coast Indy300), PSC Race engineer Joe Sasso commented that the weekend resulted in a good collection of championship points. 'Now it is about looking ahead to Phillip Island, where we won the round last year. The team performed strongly to overcome the difficulties of last weekend, so the outlook is promising.' Team Principal Rudolf Masi added momentum to this, by highlighting critical areas of improvement: 'We have to work harder. The goal is to have a perfect weekend at Phillip Island - no team has done it this year, we will be resolutely thorough to ensure no stone is left unturned. Last year we won the Phillip Island round, so two poles, two race wins and two fastest laps is the aim.'



Near Left:

Justin describing car balance with Matt after the final race

Far Left:

Neil McFadyen at speed

Piccola's youngest rising star - 17 year-old Justin Tate performed superbly to overtake 9 cars on Sunday and score two podiums on debut for the team. Having previously campaigned a Porsche 944 in the Victorian State Championship as well as karting, he quickly adapted to his PSC National-class F304. PSC Race engineer Matt Thio described Justin's first race with the team as a good step forward: 'Justin acclimatised tremendously - he is an asset to the team in his approach, and he blends maturity, intelligence and raw-speed well. With the help of our sponsors we will nurture him for an assault on next year's championship. For the moment, his focus needs to be on his Year 11 studies as well as his racing, and we are very supportive of helping him on all levels. He will become a champion.'

Prior to the race, the team commenced testing on the Wednesday using old tyres, anticipating the forecast for wet conditions by focusing on trying a variety of different setups in their F307 Dallara. On Friday, Piccola topped the time sheets by over half a second from 2nd place - Tandemport. The second practice session saw the team make a merited decision to prematurely end the practice due to safety concerns with the torrential downpour with both drivers completing a total of 3 laps. With limited free practice, Piccola palpably qualified on pole position for Race 2, but struggled in the intermediate/wet conditions - recuperating to qualify a disappointing seventh for Race 1. Apart from this, the team managed to maintain their 4 point margin in the championship during both races.

Piccola is also gaining exposure from a 'drag-race' event between the popular Aussie Race Cars and one of the team's F304 Dallara's at Oran Park this weekend (Sunday). The event will feature on a one hour program to be televised on FOXTEL later this month, with Justin representing the team in what should be a great promotional display. A remote-control helicopter with cameras will also film the display, which will feature high performance cars dueling the Aussie Race Cars. The Industrie/PSC Ferrari 430 Challenge will also be on-hand at the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick this Thursday 29th May for a fun event for the young kids at the hospital. Additionally Industrie will open a new suit store in Paddington tomorrow with PSC's F304 Dallara on display.

The entire PSC team is definitely working hard on the very detail that will be their success. For more information about Piccola Scuderia please visit: www.piccola.com.au

Piccola Scuderia Corse would like to express their appreciation to partners and sponsors: QANTAS, INDUSTRIE, XENITH CAPITAL, BILSTEIN, HEASMAN'S STEERING, KOKEN TOOLS BEEF-EATER BARBEQUES, BERLINA BODYWORKS, iRACE, NEXUS-MG, POGGIPOLINI TITANIUM, UBER CONSULTING, FERROCON, TOP-HAT ROOFING, FIBRE-GLASS INTERNATIONAL