

6 April 2008

James Koundouris the Home Town Hero

James Koundouris (Supabarn Supermarkets) has continued the unpredictable nature of Carrera Cup Australia's Pilatus Challenge by becoming the third winner in as many rounds at Wakefield Park, Goulburn, at the weekend.

The Canberra based competitor dominated the championship-within-a-championship for non-professional drivers over the age of 30, winning all three races at his home track.

It proved a sensational weekend for the Koundouris family, with James' brother Theo taking second in the Challenge, just ahead of Shaun Juniper (Juniper Developments).

In front of a huge contingent of family and friends James was brilliant all weekend and his equal seventh overall finish for the round equalled his best ever Carrera Cup result.

It was also a watershed weekend for Theo, with his 11th overall placing his best finish since Round Eight in 2005.

After testing at their home track in the week leading into the event the brothers were confident of performing well and James especially began the weekend on song when he qualified ninth – his best ever Carrera Cup qualification.

His great driving continued and with finishes of 10th, ninth and seventh he proved he can mix it with the best Carrera Cup has to offer.

James lapped up the two 30 minute races on the final day and admitted he was a fan of the longer race format which was implemented as a one-off for the round.

"It was a great weekend right from the start," James said.

"We had good pace all weekend and set consistently fast times so things are going in the right direction.

"I really enjoyed the longer races and I think that showed with how well I was driving.

"It was the best result we could have hoped for being at our home track."

Juniper's finish was his third Pilatus Challenge podium in a row after winning in Adelaide and finishing second in Melbourne.

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While pleasing in itself he was more impressed with his driving overall, which included the 10th fastest lap time in Race Two.

“I posted some great times during the weekend, especially in Race Two, and I think that performance in particular is an indication of where I am heading and definitely where I want to be,” he said.

“It was a new circuit for me but I really enjoyed it and the longer races. It’s a really fun track to drive and it made for a very enjoyable weekend.”

The results in Goulburn ensure the Pilatus Challenge remains as tight as ever, with the top four drivers separated by just 24 points.

Perth is the next city to be visited by Carrera Cup Australia, with Round Four of the championship joining the V8 Supercar Championship Series at the Barbagallo circuit from May 9-11.

Before then be sure to catch all the highlights of Round Three when the Carrera Cup programme airs on Channel 7 on April 26.

Pilatus Challenge Round Three points:

J Koundouris 180
T Koundouris 156
Shaun Juniper 126
Peter Hill 120
Max Twigg 102
Marc Cini 96

Pilatus Challenge total points:

1 Shaun Juniper 450
2 Max Twigg 426
3 Peter Hill 426
4 J Koundouris 426
5 Marc Cini 372
6 T Koundouris 372
7 Iain Sherrin 192

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