



## Drivers primed for NSW Title battle



**ABOVE : Action like this is expected in the NSW Late Model Championship to be held at Goulburn Speedway (NSW) Saturday January 19. Photo by Gary Reid.**

The 2013 New South Wales Late Model Title is to be fought out this Saturday night (January 19) at Goulburn Speedway, and headlining the field of drivers is going to be two of America's stars: veteran Steve Francis and youngster Devin Moran.

After dominating the past two Australian titles, Francis heads into the event as the hot favourite, while the defending NSW Titleholder is fellow countryman Moran. Since arriving back in Australia, Francis has dominated proceedings, and despite being in unfamiliar equipment – steering the Bruce Mackenzie owned #15 USA car – he'll be hard to beat.

Moran, driving for the NSW based Nicastris Motorsport team, has had the going a little tougher on his second Australian tour, but he's focused on returning to winning form by defending his NSW Title crown.

Amongst the nomination list of 14 are a stack of Australian drivers eager to reclaim NSW pride. Heading that list are the likes of former NSW Champion Nathan Disney, and last start feature-race winner in NSW, Dave Robertson. Both drivers have advantages to help their NSW Title chase: Disney knows what it takes to achieve NSW Title success, and Robertson is one of the form drivers in the state and wants to maintain that.

Interstate visitors Michael Holmes, Jay Cardy, and Simon McNab may have limited experience running against the NSW brigade on home soil, but the Western Australians are eager to prove that they aren't going to be push overs.

Completing the list of nominations is a mixture of experience and newcomers. In the experienced corner, there's three-time Australian Super Sedan Champion Ron Pyne and ex-Sprintcar racer Barry Kelleher. When it comes to the newcomers, there's Liam Heaton from nearby Canberra, Lithgow's Nigel O'Neill, and three Newcastle-based drivers: teenager Jessica Cassidy (who's the only female in the country currently racing a Late Model), Michael Hickey, and Jeff Searle.

The format for the NSW Title is going to consist of three rounds of Heat races and that will decide the starting positions for the 30-lap Feature race.

The NSW Title host venue, Goulburn Speedway, is located in the Southern Tablelands of NSW – half-way between Sydney and Canberra. The track's tight layout will make for some exciting racing from beginning to end. It's the type of track where qualifying towards the pointy end of the Feature race is going to be a vital when it comes to challenging for the winning spoils.

To find out more about the East Coast Late Model Association visit their website: [www.nswlatemodels.com](http://www.nswlatemodels.com)

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