



## Late Models busy off season

The news Tyrepower Sydney Speedway will host the 2012 Australian Late Model Championship has triggered off a hive of activity within the Late Model ranks in the early stages of the off-season.

Interest in NSW Late Model circles has intensified considerably since it was revealed Late Models Australia had awarded next season's national title to the Sydney venue. The National Championship will be decided over two big nights of racing on January 27 and 28, 2012.

One of the first people to react to the news was Mark Cooper, owner and operator of American Tire and Racing Services. Cooper has purchased two Late Models for next season. Cooper will return to competition in one of the cars while the other will be driven by brother-in-law, former National Midget Champion Nathan Smee.

Another driver ready to hit the Sydney Late Model scene full of running is former Grand National racer from the Liverpool Raceway era, Col Robinson. Col has two cars coming from Maryland in the US. He has purchased a latest model Warrior chassis factory car with a 421ci Chevy engine, as well as a Rocket chassis, and enough spares overall to field two cars. It represents a heavy investment and clearly indicates how seriously Robinson is treating his Late Model racing commitment.

Meanwhile, Sydney's Ross Nicastrì has finalised an American deal for a latest model Mastersbilt GenX car in preparation for next season. Nicastrì will put the off season to good use and is taking his son Ben to America. Ben, along with another Sydneysider Darryl Grimson, and Ross, will participate in a racecar set-up course conducted by "Million Dollar Man" and former Down Under visitor Donnie Moran.

"The next day Ben will do an on track driver training course in our new car also with Donnie Moran, then Darryl and I will both compete in some races in the US before shipping the car home for me to drive next season," Ross explained.

A newcomer to the Sydney Late Model line-up is 30 year-old Jeff Searle from the NSW Hunter Valley region who has purchased (from Neil Wallace) a 2008 model turn- key Rocket chassis car from the USA.

Searle's team has already picked up some sponsorship from Diesel Designs (motorsport graphics) and Avant Mini Loaders to enhance their racecar package. "This will be my first season on the dirt and I can't wait to get out there," Searle explained. "The first time I saw a Late Model race was about four years ago. That night I said to dad we have to get one, and we have now entered into the wild world of Late Models, and we are looking forward to the challenge of calming these beasts" Jeff added.

*Media Release by Dennis Newlyn*  
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