

Late Model Grand National Latest : Nicastri's New Car Arrives From Illinois

As an indication how seriously Sydney's Ross Nicastri is treating the 50-lap Late Model Grand National at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Saturday March 26, this morning he took delivery of a new car shipped from Illinois.

Ross is working around the clock to have the sleek American racer ready for this weekend after he picked up the Mastersbilt Pontiac from customs at 7:30am today.

He will run the car straight out of the box in its current American livery and race number. His team will carry out the usual pre-race maintenance and will fit another engine in the countdown to Saturday night.

"We have plenty to do to get the car ready," Ross said shortly after he picked up the car.

"We want to go over the car and check everything in addition to dropping another engine into it."

"I will run as number three after this week, but I won't have time to change its current number as it comes out of the container, so we will run with its existing number 41" Ross explained.

Nicastri has been a very busy man, not only preparing to race in the Grand National, but he has been heavily involved in the organisation of the event.

He has worked long and hard putting together an entry list of local and interstate drivers for the rich Grand National.

His administrative work has paid dividends as competitors from four states and the ACT have converged on Tyrepower Sydney Speedway to challenge New South Wales' best for honours in the \$5000-to-win Grand National.

The interstaters are headed by National Champion Brad Blake from Western Australia. Third placegetter in the recent national title at Timmis Speedway, Mildura Matt Crimmins (South Australia) also has entered.

Blake will be accompanied by fellow West Aussie Warren Oldfield, while Crimmins' South Australian compatriot Luke Raymond has also arrived in Sydney. David Mentiplay (Victoria), Jake Hawkins (Qld) and Matt Ingrey (Qld) are among other interstate drivers who have nominated.

Nicastri will be joined by the strong local line-up which includes Nathan Disney, Darryl Grimson and ACT regular at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Scott McPherson.

Nicastri reports this morning 22 cars have nominated for the Grand National.

Victorian Garry Bryans is a late addition to the entry list.

Nicastri hopes to see the 50-lap Grand National become established in future as the equivalent – and modern day version – of the prestigious Marlboro Grand National 100 lap sedan classic which was held at Sydney's former Liverpool City Raceway from 1971 to 1988.

"We need to build on this race to make it into something that will follow in the heritage of the original Grand National at Liverpool all those years ago," Nicastri explained.

While he is well aware it will take time and the bar has been set very high, he wants to establish this race as an annual event. He hopes to work toward the future to consolidate a major Late Model Sedan race on the Sydney scene in addition to the annual Gold Cup which has been run over the past few seasons at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway.