



Blast off for NSW Late Models



ABOVE : Ross Nicastrì lead home a father-son 1-2 at Sydney Speedway Saturday October 20. Photo by Gary Reid.

The 2012–13 season for the NSW Late Models kicked off last Saturday night (October 20) at Sydney Speedway, and it resulted in the father and son duo of Ross and Ben Nicastrì clean sweeping proceedings.

In what was the strongest start to a season – 16 drivers turned up (double what was the car count for last season’s opener). The Nicastrì’s dominated all four Heat races, with both Ross and Ben snaring two wins each. In the final Heat, Ben set a new 10-lap record which now stands at 2:34.0950.

As the highest point scorers heading into the 20-lap Feature, Ross and Ben – who were only separated by Ross recording the fastest Heat lap – started from third and fifth starting positions via a unique crowd draw – involving kids coming out onto the track and drawing the Top-8 starting positions while the drivers were sitting in their cars on the main straight.

The Feature took a number of attempts to get underway – one was for a spectacular rollover from Super-Sedan convert Robert Carrig in turn four after he was the innocent victim in someone else’s mistake – but it was Ross Nicastri that powered to the lead from his second row starting spot almost immediately. While Ross was setting the pace out in front, his teenage son, Ben, quickly moved into second and was trying his best to reel in his experienced father. At the same time, Ben was locked in a battle with, firstly veteran Bruce White (who unfortunately retired to the infield on the 15th lap with a mechanical issue) and then had to fend off a fast finishing David Robertson. In the closing stages, Nicastri was forced to protect his lead from his son Ben, along with Robertson, who both finished in strong fashion. Robertson’s effort to deny the Nicastri family of a 1-2 finish came unstuck after failing to execute an aggressive passing move on Ben in turn two and losing momentum and consequently ground.

At the fall of the chequered flag Ross Nicastri claimed the winning spoils ahead of his son Ben – making it a historic night for the Nicastri family after they clean swept the night. Robertson, who had struggled in his Heat races, finished the night gallantly in third place on the podium after he had started from the rear of the Feature. Bruce MacKenzie enjoyed a consistent night and finished just off the podium in fourth ahead of newcomers John Brown, Michael Hickey, Robert Bradford, and Jessica Cassidy, who were the final finishers.

This season has seen an influx of new drivers join the NSW Late Models. Every one of the drivers handled themselves very well for their first hit outs and it’s going to be exciting to see how they progress as the season goes on.



**ABOVE : Jessica Cassidy enjoyed a good night in the #20.
Photo by Gary Reid.**

Complete results: October 20, 2012 at Sydney Speedway (Granville, NSW)

Heat One (10 laps)

1 Ross Nicastri, 2 Scott McPherson, 3 Bruce White, 4 Robert Bradford, 5 Jessica Cassidy, DNF David Robertson

Heat Two (10 laps)

1 Ben Nicastri, 2 Michael Hickey, 3 Robert Carrig, 4 Bruce MacKenzie, DNF Nathan Disney, John Brown, Jeff Searle and Col Robinson

Heat Three (10 laps)

1 Ross Nicastri, 2 Bruce White, 3 Scott McPherson, 4 Robert Bradford, 5 Jessica Cassidy, DNF David Robertson

Heat Four (10 laps)

1 Ben Nicastri, 2 John Brown, 3 Michael Hickey, 4 Bruce MacKenzie, DNF Robert Carrig and Col Robinson

Feature Race (20 laps)

1 Ross Nicastri, 2 Ben Nicastri, 3 David Robertson, 4 Bruce MacKenzie, 5 John Brown, 6 Michael Hickey, 7 Robert Bradford, 8 Jessica Cassidy, DNF Bruce White and Robert Carrig

The next appearance from the Late Models will be on Saturday night, November 3 at Sydney Speedway.

For further information about the NSW Late Models visit www.nswlatemodels.com

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