



Brock Motorsport 2008 / 09 Season

Highs and Lows for Brock at the Final Round of the Suzuki Championship

Weather on Saturday was very overcast with showers predicted which fortunately didn't come. Qualifying was probably the closest of the season with only 4 tenths separating the top 7 Suzuki's with Brock in 7th. A very competitive start to the final round of the championship.

Race 1 was held close to 3pm on Saturday and Brock had a fantastic start and was in the leading bunch of 6 Suzuki's with a healthy gap back to the next group of a few car lengths. Going into the esses this group was bumper to bumper and 2 or 3 abreast at times. Dallas left a gap which Brock was moving into when the car in front of Dallas baulked leaving Dallas with nowhere to go but into that same gap, as Brock was in his blind spot he would have been unaware Brock was moving up beside up and the cars hit sending Dallas into the grass. The officials judged Brock to be at fault and gave him a drive through which put him nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a lap behind the race leaders to finish the race in last position. Although he felt this was a harsh penalty for what he believed was a racing incident he took it in his stride apologized to Ben and moved on to the next race with a positive attitude and a belief in his car that it was handling the best he could make it and his head was very definitely in the right place.

Sunday dawned bright and early for a 9.25am start for Race 2. The crew repaired the car from the previous day. Started off Grid 9 and took the bit between his teeth and by the end of the first lap came along the front straight in 4th position, the little Suzuki justifying his faith in its setup. The next few laps were fast and furious with bumper to bumper racing with the front group of 9 Suzuki's. The second to last lap Brock went into Jennian in a group 4 wide which had the spectators on the edge of their seats not to mention a track announcer who had forgotten there were 2 other classes and had focused on this nail biting fight going on in the Suzuki's. I'm sure the boy's didn't need anyone to remind them that 4 Suzuki's does not fit into this corner but all kept their cool and Brock came out of the battle in 2nd position. The end of the back straight and this group of top drivers put on another brilliant display of driving, ducking and diving and changing position metre after metre and around the hairpin that has caught many a driver out. Not this group though and Brock came over the hill at the front of the pack and held onto that lead against a very concerted challenge from this group of the best Suzuki drivers to take the chequered flag absolutely ecstatic. This moved him up the Championship standings into 4th position only 6 points behind Dallas in 3rd position.

Race 3 and Brock went onto the Grid ROF with a very positive outlook and looking forward to taking his Suzuki round the track again to achieve another good result. Had another fantastic



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start and with 2 other Championship contenders in a freight train were making their way through the field together before starting the battle amongst themselves. Or at least that was the plan until on the second lap one of the back runners lost control of his car after fluffing a gear change and came sliding down the grass on the inside of this group of Podium contenders and luck was not on Brock's side as he was the one in the wrong spot when this car came back on the track and hit him in the front passengers wheel and guard. After a quick check on the cars handling, Brock realized that the steering wheel was at a strange angle the car was not handling at all well scuffing off at least 15kmh an hour and affecting the handling in the corners. To preserve precious championship points he limped the Suzuki home in last position losing any chance of a Podium finish and had to settle for 5th, with a 3rd place in the Teams Championship alongside teammate Joel Thrupp - Team Salmon Racing (that name has its roots in last years championship after a bit of off track antics).

Although this wasn't an auspicious end to the Championship Brock was extremely happy with his 1st position in the 2nd race and credit must go to the team for being the only Independent car in the top 6 alongside the Factory Winger Suzuki Team prepared Suzuki's. Motorsport is all about driver talent, car setup, and outside influences or luck and he certainly showed how all of these can affect the results and make the driver a better person.

The Suzuki Swift Cup Sport Series would have to be without doubt one of the best in the Tier 1 Championship with any one of a group of drivers having the ability, talent and vehicle to take out a win in any given race. I believe Brock's whole team would have no hesitation in recommending this class to any Karter, Club driver or Tier 2 competitor looking to move into a 'tintop' Tier 1 Championship with a more affordable budget than most other classes. Not to mention that all important Scholarship opportunity which anyone considering the class should have a shot at.

Sincere thanks to all Brock's sponsors who have supported him this season: Brock's Precision Dodge Suzuki is proudly supported by major sponsor Century Yuasa along with last years sponsors Dodson Japanese Autospares, Warren Fowler Hard Rock Quarries, Tyler Davies Group, Autocolour European and Legend Graphics.

Brock will now take a much deserved break and consider where life will take him from here.

If you want any further information on Brock's motorsport please email Brock at barriefamily@wave.co.nz

