



Media Release

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Sandown Struggle For Gulf Western Racing

After a positive build-up to round three of the Fujitsu V8 Supercar Development Series, last weekend's Sandown Raceway event proved to be a struggle for Gulf Western Racing.

During practice, Gulf Western's David Sieders had a off-track excursion that resulted in a bent right axle that cost the team most of the session and a subsequent loss of the preparation for the all-important qualifying. It was a major blow and something that had an impact for the remainder of the round.

Sieders managed to fight hard during the qualifying session and even though battling with an under-prepared Gulf Western Falcon, he hung on to claim 15th position on the grid for race one.

"Qualifying wasn't bad but it wasn't great," said Sieders. "The Gulf Western Falcon just wasn't as good as we thought it might be after all of the development changes we have made in the past few weeks. Missing most of practice didn't help either."

Heading into the first encounter of the weekend, Sieders was focussed on producing a respectable result but those wishes were quickly erased when a mid-race incident pushed him well back down the field, finishing in 25th position.

"I was feeling pretty confident going into race one. I got off to a good start and hung in there for the first few laps but then I got caught up in some other drivers' issues and got punted off the track," Sieders added.

With the clouds starting to roll in over the suburban Melbourne circuit just before race two, Sieders was starting from position 25. With a sea of V8 Supercars in front of him, the Gulf Western driver got off the line well - "I had a good launch off at the start line and managed to get past two or three cars in the first lap. I really wanted to use race two to iron out any bugs in the car and consolidate our position for the rest of the weekend," Sieders commented.

Sieders kept the Gulf Western Falcon out of trouble and whilst he dodged a few accidents along the way, he climbed into 19th position and more importantly had a solid car, ready for the final race.

With plenty of anticipation and enthusiasm heading into the third and final race of the round, David Sieders has hoping to further improve his position after two previous eventful encounters. His battle-scared Gulf Western Falcon was starting to show signs of improvement and Sieders himself was getting more acquainted with the many developments the car had seen in recent times.

Unfortunately, all the positiveness in the world couldn't prepare Sieders for a bunch of drivers positioned just in front of him that seemed to be preoccupied with crashing into each other rather than racing - "I got the car handling well but unfortunately I got caught up again with some bad drivers after the first few laps. I'd thought I was out of the danger zone until one for the cars took me out. By the time I got back on the track, I could only manage 20th position," Sieders concluded.

For Further Information

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