



Endurance races the 'Great Equaliser'



Gulf Western Oil Racing team owner Lucas Dumbrell is looking forward to the V8 Supercars 'Season of Endurance' admitting that the next three events present the team's best chance to grab a top 10 finish.

With the endurance events kicking off at this weekend's L&H 500 at Phillip Island the smallest team in V8 Supercars is hungry for

their chance at some V8 Supercar glory and Dumbrell couldn't be more excited.

"The longer races always present the smaller teams with their best opportunity to sneak into the top placings – they are the great equaliser," Dumbrell said.

"It's about having two evenly matched and experienced drivers that can keep the car in one piece but still produce consistent, competitive lap times and we have that with Warren and Nathan."

Regular driver Warren Luff will be paired with the experienced Nathan Pretty at Phillip Island and Bathurst before Marino Franchitti joins the team as its International driver for the Gold Coast 600.

"Nathan is a very experienced enduro driver while Warren's long distance racing reputation both in Australia and overseas is growing rapidly," Dumbrell added.

Pretty, who drove for the team in 2010, has an enviable record in endurance events with six top 10 Bathurst finishes to his credit.

He was unlucky to miss out on yet another last year when an untimely Safety Car late in the race negated a cunning strategy by the Gulf Western team.

And with an extra year's worth of experience under their belts Gulf Western Oil Racing can deliver the goods at Phillip Island and Bathurst according to team owner Dumbrell.

"We were definitely pretty green last year as a team when it came to the endurance events but the drivers did a great job," Dumbrell said.

"We've learnt a lot over the past 12 months so we're looking forward to putting that experience into action over the next month.

"We've got some very talented people in the team and we have two great drivers so I'm really confident about our chances at Phillip Island this weekend."

The L&H 500 kicks off with three 40-minute practice sessions Friday, followed by a qualifying session and qualifying race for each driver on Saturday.

The combined results from the two qualifying races will form the grid for Sunday's L&H 500, which is scheduled to start at 1:30pm.

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