



Franchitti to join Luff for Armor All Gold Coast 600



Lucas Dumbrell Motorsport today confirmed today that experienced Sportscar competitor Marino Franchitti will be the team's International driver at the Armor All Gold Coast 600.

Franchitti will suit up in Gulf Western Oil Racing colours alongside Warren Luff and compete in twin 300km races around the famous Surfers Paradise street circuit this October.

Born into a racing family Franchitti has carved out a highly successful international career. While his brother Dario has recorded considerable IndyCar success, Marino has proven himself a force to be reckoned with in Sportscars around the globe.

And while the younger Franchitti has not previously competed in Australia he does have strong ties to the country as he counts Toll Holden Racing Team driver James Courtney among his closest friends.

"I've been a big fan of V8 Supercars since I started watching Bathurst back in the days of Peter Brock and Dick Johnson and the last few years I've obviously been keeping a close eye on how my good mate James Courtney has been going.

"I went to the event last year with Dario and from the moment I got there it was obvious that I had to be involved.

"It was just the best weekend, the racing during the day and the concerts at night, the only thing that was missing was me being in a car and luckily enough Lucas has been able to hook me up this year."

Franchitti fielded offers from a number of teams but his relationship with Luff was a crucial factor in him joining the Gulf Western Oil team.

"I had a few offers but I really wanted to drive with Warren Luff as we've known each other for a few years now.

And driving a V8 Supercar for the first time has Franchitti cautiously optimistic.

"I've driven some big front-engine rear wheel drive cars before but a V8 Supercar is obviously not going to have the downforce or the grip of the LeMans prototypes I normally drive.

"But it's got four wheels and an engine so I just need to drive it as quick as I can and see how we go."

Luff is looking forward to sharing the Gulf Western Commodore with Franchitti and excited by his prospects in the event.

"Marino is a quality guy and a very underrated driver so I'm really looking forward to teaming up with him at the Armor All Gold Coast 600," Luff said.

"He will acquit himself very well and I'm sure he'll surprise quite a few people."

Team Owner Lucas Dumbrell said signing up Franchitti was an easy choice.

"He was completely professional from our first meeting and he is obviously a very handy driver," Dumbrell said.

"He's driven a lot of different cars in his career and I'm sure he'll adapt very well to the V8 Supercar.

"We're really looking forward to having him join the Gulf Western Oil Racing team."

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