



Gulf Western Oil Racing aiming to move on up in 2011

With a striking all new colour scheme, a full-time engineer on-board and an experienced driver in Warren Luff joining the team, Gulf Western Oil Racing are expecting nothing less than big steps forward during the 2011 International V8 Supercar Championship.

The team, which completed its initial season last year will once again have Gulf Western Oil as the naming rights partner of the team which is owned by the youngest team owner in the sport's history, Lucas Dumbrell.

Designed by Holden's Peter Hughes the new livery features a darker, more aggressive design with black taking over as the predominant colour on the new look Commodore.

Dumbrell said that 2010 was a unique challenge which involved setting up a team from scratch - developing infrastructure, finding sponsors, hiring crew and driver and sourcing equipment - and that with the 'birthing phase' of the team now behind it he was looking forward to some stronger results in 2011.

"It was a big job and we started way behind the eight ball time-wise in 2010," said Dumbrell.

"But I'm ambitious and this season is all about taking that next step and the first part of that puzzle is a new look

for the Gulf Western Commodore.

"We're lucky that we have a great sponsor in Gulf Western that helped us to get the team up and running and to have them and all the other sponsors back on board for another year is incredible.

"We've even forged a new relationship with Supercharge Batteries which is another fantastic acquisition for the team.

"We're definitely looking to step it up a fair bit this year performance wise, we didn't get the results we probably hoped for in 2010 but we were pretty competitive at times and we all learnt a lot.

"When we got some experienced guys in the car for the last few rounds we saw the team start to make some decent progress.

"With a years worth of experience behind us, all the 2010 data to draw on and an experienced driver in the seat I'm pretty sure we'll be able to push a long way further towards the front.

"Warren (Luff) is a proven performer and he showed that when he partnered James Courtney last year, and adding Rob Palermo to our staff as a full-time engineer means we can build the car and team around some pretty talented guys," he said.

Luff was looking forward to the season getting underway and stepping back into the Gulf Western Commodore.

"I'm really rapt to be getting back in the car," he said.

"Rob Palermo is a great acquisition for the team, having a full-time engineer is a better option for us and I'm really looking forward to developing a close working relationship with him.

"Our aim is to run in the top half of the field and given the size of our team and the level of the opposition that would be a great result for all of us.

"The new paintwork looks great, it's very stealth like and menacing and I'm hoping that's an indication of how the team will perform this year

With the official pre-season test day fast approaching the Gulf Western Oil team have been hard at work developing the car and making sure all bases are covered in preparation for the opening test day of the season at Sydney's Eastern Creek this Saturday.

The car will then be transported to Abu Dhabi for round one of the series on February 10 and 11 before the teams return to Australia for the Adelaide's Clipsal 500 meeting which runs from March 17 to 21.



PHILIPS

