



## V8 Supercars Fujitsu Series

### Oran Park Finale

### Final Race Report for 2008

Finally, after the Christmas and holiday break, here is the last race report for the 2008 year. It was very exciting as it was the last V8 race meeting ever at Oran Park which pulled out large crowds and gave a buzz around the track.

In Practice I struggled for pace as this was another track I had never raced on before. By the end of the two practice sessions I was sitting in 27<sup>th</sup> which I was very disappointed about.

Qualifying was very much the same and again I struggled finishing up in 26<sup>th</sup> spot. I much prefer the longer faster tracks such as Clipsal, Sandown and Bathurst as it suits my driving style. You can take bigger risks where others won't and make up time and places. These small go kart type tracks simply suit the experienced drivers who can make the most out of little gains.

Race One - It was the hottest race I have done in a race car, 35 degrees outside and inside was 50+ degrees. Luckily I am fit and was well hydrated so it didn't affect me too much. The race was 22 laps which was also the longest for the year. I started in 26<sup>th</sup> and worked up to finish 19<sup>th</sup> so not a bad result for Race One.

Race Two - We went out onto the track on dry tyres and whilst sitting on the grid the heavens opened up and dumped a lot of rain on the track. We all went in to put on wet tyres and then back to the grid for a restart. This was the first time I had ever raced in the wet all year, I have had damp tracks and mild rain throughout the year but not torrential downpours. It's scary enough driving these things in the wet as it is but coming down the straight and not being able to see a metre in front because of the spray of the cars is ridiculous and the windscreen wipers don't do much to help the situation. By lap two I was punted off the road on turn two and went from 19<sup>th</sup> to last in one corner, went into the gravel and went rally driving till I got back on the track. I had damage to the side door but I got back in the race and luckily caught up under a safety car and finished 16<sup>th</sup>.

Overall I finished 20<sup>th</sup> in the Fujitsu Series for 2008. I would like to finish off with a Thank you for all of the support I had in 2008 and a special thanks to MotorOne and St George.

It has been a great learning year and certainly a lot of fun, wishing everyone safe and happy 2009.

James Bergmuller



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