

NZ SPEEDWAY

Online Magazine

Jan/Feb 2006

Modified Mayhem!
06' Series Ready To Roll

Talking Bull:
Unbeatabull Gets The Q&A.

Aus Vs N.Z. Midgets:
Who Won What?



INTRODUCTION, FOREWORD

Hi and welcome to the latest edition of NZOSM. What an extremely busy period it has been since our previous edition (Dec05). The team at KTWV hopes you and your family had a great Christmas and New Year break. Wow, so long ago!

During this period the New Zealand and Australian "real life" Speedway seasons have been in full swing and what a hot summer it's been here in New Zealand. (This is my pathetic excuse for not getting NZOSM out sooner!)

2006 looks set to be a full on year for Speedway Sim racing world wide. On the local scene KTWV has been flat out from day 1 of 2006 with events running nearly every week so far and it looks like that's going to be the case for the rest of the year, yeehaa! KTWV events have been boosted by Australian racers from teams such as WAR (West Aussie Racing) and ASR (Aussie Speedway Racing) with the occasional visit from our USA mate VLR_RaZz from team VLR. With all these teams working together and supporting each others events 2006 should be a real boomer.

There has been so many events held since our December edition, we hope we havn't missed any events but apologize if we have.

Once again we invite any speedway club, sim or real, to contribute to this Online Speedway Magazine.

This month NZOSM is released from the actual KTWV website itself. Thanks to KTWV Webmaster & founding member "ScreaminDemon" for hosting this months edition of NZOSM.

If you want to get involved with online Speedway racing downunder, just sign up on the KTWV message board and post a note for help, you will get all the help you need.

Thanks from the team at Kiwi Things With Wings. www.kickme.to/ktwv



"modified mayhem"

KTWV ANNOUNCES THE "MODIFIED MAYHEM SERIES"

featuring:

FIVE ROUNDS OF INTENSE ONLINE MODIFIED RACING.

FOLLOWED BY THE N.Z. NATIONAL TITLE.

THE DEMONCHILD AND DEVILSTORM MODIFIED CHASSIS

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coming soon!

Event details will be posted at: www.kickme.to/ktwv closer to the start of the event

ONLINE EVENTS SECTION



****The Forgotten Chassis:****

One of the almost forgotten add-ons available at KTWW for DTR2 is set to make a return in an upcoming series designed to spark some interest back into the online racing scene.....

The "Devilstorm" and "Demonchild" Modified chassis have been somewhat un-used since their introduction to the DTR2 field, which is strange considering they were one of the original classes ported over from DTRSC. They even seemed so forgotten that there was no 2005 National Title contested for the winged beasts!

In the last edition of NZOSM an advert was placed in regards to a proposed series to be run for this class, the response was non-existent until a post was placed on the KTWW messageboard, then the interest seemed to grow. Although the series is not yet planned out, it is known that the original three round series has now been expanded out to a five rounds, after which the National Title will be run to see who is the fastest in the land. It must be noted that the reason for the series not being planned out is mainly due to the current influx of online events. (organisers intend to run this series asap after some of the current events end)

The expansion from three to five rounds should give players a better chance to fine-tune their skills in this somewhat tricky to master class of racecar, before taking on the final task of contesting the N.Z. Modified title.

As was the case with most online series last year, racers will have to compete in at least three of the "rounds" before becoming eligible to run in the national title!

Preference for this series will be given to those who register by sending an email to "Ktwwevents@ihug.co.nz" however others will be allowed to join depending on numbers on the night with the exception of the National title, where the fore-mentioned "three meetings to qualify" rule will be enforced.

So players, it's time to dust off the Devilstorm, and Demonchild modified chassis and put in some practice laps for the years most prestigious modified event.....further details will be posted on the KTWW messageboard (accessible through www.kickme.to/ktww)

SD

Yet another series to be held on the same night as the modifieds:



see the www.kickme.to/ktww Website for more details.

Dirt Slinging a "Spectacular" success



Mid way through 2005 plans were put into place to hold an event unlike any other seen at KTWV (or possibly anywhere else for that matter) Due to a few community hiccups and other issues the event went on hold for quite some time, that was until the community picked up again and it was decided the the event "HAD" to be run.

The date would end up being 31/12/05, the last day of 2005 (New Years Eve) and the event would be known as "The KTWV Dirt Slingin Spectacular" And what a spectacular it would end up being,with some awesome online racing taking place throughout the night.

The format would be different to most online events, with all six chassis used at KTWV being used for the event in the from of an actual speedway meeting...no Stockcars heat 1, stockcars heat 2 etc here, No Way!!! this was to be run as a legit speedway meeting with players changing chassis for every race, as the roster was rotated running in this order:

Streetstocks
Midgets
Modifieds
Stockcars
Saloons
Sprintcars

this rotation would be completed three times, with heats 1,2 being run over 12 laps, and the feature round being run over 20 laps.

It was this very format that would force the event to be started earlier than normal to accomodate for the "change-over" time (even though in reality it only takes a split second) and luckily it was, as the event took about two and a half hours to run!!!

Points would be collected throughout the night in all classes, and when added together would give a winner in each class, plus an overall winner of "The KTWV Dirt Slingin Spectacular"

adding to this would be the "unknown" factor of an untested track, Elm Street raceway had just been released, and this would be the location for this mega event.....

Once everyone was aware of the format, and racing began it was soon obvious this was going to be an awesome, and challenging event for all involved (and most of all for ScreaminDemon who was responsible for taking results/points/ etc)

Racing would begin at a much earlier time of 6.30 pm (was probably closer to 7.00pm by time everything was sorted) :-)

Lets start off with the results of the "Streetstock" class

Overall Streetstock Results: 1st: Sdemon, 2nd: Ferral, 3rd: Xman

Overall Midget Results: 1st: Ferral, 2nd: Xman, 3rd: Rikstr

Overall Modified Results: 1st: Rikstr, 2nd: Xman, 3rd: Sdemon

Overall Stockcar Results: 1st:Sdemon 2nd: Ferral 3rd: Unbeatabull
(2nd/3rd decided by run-off)

Overall Saloons Results: 1st: Rikstr, 2nd: Xman 3rd: Unbeatabull
(3rd decided by run-off)

Overall Results: 1st: Sdemon, 2nd: Ferral, 3rd: Unbeatabull

All these classes brought about some great on track action, and also a few overall surprises, with some class favourites not featuring as most would expect!

However....the night was not over after the run-offs had taken place for a few minor podium places, the task of adding up the overall event points would have to be done.

After some time away doing some technical calculating the results were finally in, and what a closely contested event it would be at the top.....

"The KTWW Dirt Slingin Spectacular" Overall Results:

<u>Player:</u>	<u>Total Points:</u>
Sdemon	118
Rikstr	117
Ferral	104
Xman	101
Unbeatabull	82
Nolly	36
Rocken	20

So by a single point Sdemon pulled off an intensely close win, with Rikstr in second, and visiting Aussie driver Ferral taking out the third and final podium spot by just 3 points over Xman.

Without a doubt, i'm sure everyone will agree this event was one of the best contested, and expansive events run to date, a big thanks you, and well done to all who took part in this event and made it what it was.....KTWW looks forward to bringing the same event back again in 2006!!!



"The series trophy was taken out by Sdemon, and sits proudly in the trophy cabinet next to some other prized possessions"

Trans-Tasman Midget Test Match

In Jan 2006, 4 of the best midget drivers from 2 countries fronted up for the first ever "Australia vs New Zealand" online Midget Test Match. The Test consisted of 12 races, 4 races at 3 different tracks. The Ozzies picked "RCS Speedway" whilst the Kiwis picked "Chillibowl4", all had agreed previously to the 3rd track being Australia's very own "Avalon Speedway".

The Aus team was Ferral, Rig, Spud, & Rocken whilst lining up for NZ was Rikstr, X-Man, ScreaminDemon, & Bull. On paper 2 very even teams lined up to race it out at RCS Speedway. Race 1 saw Rig head home X-Man & Rikstr to get the aussies off to a good start. Race 2 saw the aussies ram it home with a clean sweep, finishing 1 2 n 3 as follows, Ferral, Rig, Spud. The kiwi's with their backs to the wall were shite-ing themselves, was that it? Was it all over? Lets see, Race 3: came in at Bull, Rikstr, Ferral, not looking too good for the kiwis eh? Race 4: Rig, Rocken, X-Man, sheesh. Time to change venue and the big show moved to Aussie outback track lol, Avalon. Race 5: Rikstr, Rig, Ferral. Race 6: Rikstr, Rig, X-Man, Race 7: Rikstr, Ferral, Rig, Race 8: X-Man, Rikstr, Ferral, the kiwis are fighting back! The big show now moves onto Chillibowl4, Race 9: X-Man, Rikstr, Spud, Race 10: Rikstr, Spud, Sdemon, Race 11: Rikstr, Spud, X-Man, & the final Race 12: X-Man, Sdemon, Rikstr. What a tight test match and it wasn't till the last race at Chillibowl where the Kiwis came in 1 2 & 3 that they even thought they had a chance. The judges went away to tally up the totals and the test score came back as follow:

Driver	Team	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Race 9	Race 10	Race 11	Race 12	Total
KIWITEAM_Rikstr	NZ	8	5	9	4	10	10	10	9	9	10	10	8	102
KIWITEAM_XMan	NZ	9	7	3	8	6	8	6	10	10	4	8	10	89
Aussie Team_Rig	AUS	10	9	5	10	9	9	8	5	3	4	6	7	85
AUSSIETEAM_FERRAL	AUS	3	10	8	6	8	7	9	8	4	5	7	3	78
Aussie Team Spud	AUS	7	8	7	5	4	3	4	4	8	9	9	6	74
KIWITEAM_Sdemon	NZ	4	4	6	7	3	4	5	7	7	8	5	9	69
KiwiTeam Bull	NZ	5	4	10	4	5	5	7	6	5	7	4	5	67
AUSSIIE TEAM-Rocken	AUS	6	6	4	9	7	6	3	3	6	6	3	4	63
Driver	Team	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Race 9	Race 10	Race 11	Race 12	Total
Aussie Team_Rig	AUS	10	9	5	10	9	9	8	5	3	4	6	7	85
AUSSIETEAM_FERRAL	AUS	3	10	8	6	8	7	9	8	4	5	7	3	78
Aussie Team Spud	AUS	7	8	7	5	4	3	4	4	8	9	9	6	74
AUSSIIE TEAM-Rocken	AUS	6	6	4	9	7	6	3	3	6	6	3	4	63
AUS Total														300
KIWITEAM_Rikstr	NZ	8	5	9	4	10	10	10	9	9	10	10	8	102
KIWITEAM_XMan	NZ	9	7	3	8	6	8	6	10	10	4	8	10	89
KIWITEAM_Sdemon	NZ	4	4	6	7	3	4	5	7	7	8	5	9	69
KiwiTeam Bull	NZ	5	4	10	4	5	5	7	6	5	7	4	5	67
NZ Total														327

So the kiwis managed a 27 point victory this time around. The kiwis were totally shocked after feeling like they were down by so much but perseverance and determination saw them come thru to record a historical victory. 1-0 to NZ, a re-match is likely mid 2006. Who will be good enough to represent their countries next time around?



Team Aus (left) vs Team NZ (right).

2006 ChiliBowl – X-Man makes it 2 in a row

The KTWW 2006 online Chilibowl drew a lot of international attention this year with more Aussie and USA drivers showing up to have a crack at this title.

In all a total of 17 different drivers had a go so with this in mind the field was split for Rounds 1 & 2, with the top 8 points scorers going straight to the Finals night with the remaining 2 spots left for the other 9 non-qualifiers to race for in the "B" Main. After rounds 1 & 2 the points table was as follows:



2006 Chili Bowl Rnd 2

	RND1 (15th Jan 06)			RND2 (22nd Jan 06)			RND3 DASH	Final Points
	RACE1	RACE2	RACE3	RACE1	RACE2	RACE3		
KTWW_Rikstr_NZ9C	10	10	10	9	10	10		59
KTWW_Sdemon	10	9	10	10	9	8		56
KTWW_Bull 51c	8	8	8	9	9	9		51
KTWW_Spud	7	7	6	7	8	8		43
A.M.C.A nationals	7	7	7	4	8	9		42
WAR-Rocken	8	9	8	8	3	5		41
KTWW_Shortie21R	6	6	7	7	6	6		38
KTWW_Josho				10	10	10		30
KTWW_XMan	9	10	9	0	0	0		28
KTWW_Retro Weedy	0	6	0	8	7	7		28
WAR_FERRAL	9	8	9	0	0	0		26
KTWW_Sparkie				6	6	5		17
AK_Slimer				3	7	7		17
KTWW_Mad Dog				5	5	6		16
VLR_raZz				6	4	5		15
KTWW_Fan				5	5	5		15
War_Rig	5	0	0	0	0			5

Only X-Man & RetroWeedy showed up for the B-Main but they still raced hard. X-Man showing his pace in the Breka.

So onto the Final and we had the 6 pre qualifiers and the 2 above from the B-Main to make a 8 car final.

At the start Bull, Rock, Rikstr had a hum dinger up front untill X-Man blasted to the front and took off like a cut cat. Rikstr was locked in battle with Rocken but eventually got away from the West Aussie Racing Rock. Bull was back in fourth and thats how it ended up. There was action all over the track as the front runners were busy lapping others. All in all thou a great race for most.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the chilibowl over the 3 different nights.

Dash for Points

- 1,KTWW_XMan,Breka/EdPink,197.133179,9.613997,20,32
- 2,WAR-Rocken,Stealth-X2,199.464981,9.607727,20,43
- 3,KTWW_Rikstr_NZ9C,Stealth-X2,200.183807,9.660324,20,60
- 4,KTWW Bull 51c,Stealth-X2,201.060425,9.818115,20,51
- 5,KTWW-Shortie4WR,Stealth-X2,203.918198,10.291489,17,38
- DNF,KTWW_Josho,Breka/EdPink,DNF,DNF,2,30
- DNF,(ASR) AMCA V48,Breka/EdPink,DNF,DNF,0,42
- DNF,KTWW_Retro Weedy,Breka/EdPink,DNF,10.473644,3,28

The Final A-Main

- 1st,KTWW_XMan,Breka/EdPink,490.262848,9.599365,50,36
- 2nd,KTWW_Rikstr_NZ9C,Stealth-X2,495.097565,9.651917,50,62
- 3rd,WAR-Rocken,Stealth-X2,498.425812,9.704468,50,44
- 4th,KTWW Bull 51c,Stealth-X2,499.669525,9.730453,50,51
- 5th,KTWW_Josho,Breka/EdPink,495.185150,9.774536,49,30
- 6th,KTWW_Retro Weedy,Breka/EdPink,491.804352,9.862122,48,28
- 7th,KTWW-Shortie4WR,Stealth-X2,500.019867,10.157854,43,38
- DNF,(ASR) AMCA V48,Breka/EdPink,DNF,10.072327,32,0

Well done X-Man who had to come from the rear of the field in the A-Main to take victory. Can anyone stop X-Man making a hat trick, probably not!

Stockcar 2 Man Teams Series

1st: Glen Eagles	Rik & Josho
2nd: AmcaDemons	Amca and SD
3rd: MadBulls	Bull and Mad Dog
4th: Xmans?	Xman and well err who ur partner X? 🤔
5th: =uTu=	Spud & Nolly? Or ?

Thanks everyone for racing keep ur eyes open 🏁 for the next event, it gonna be a biggy (I hope 😊)

Thx

Bull

Springs National Series

4 weeks/rnds of Sprintcar & Midget racing at the new Western Springs Track has seen the return of KTWV & online Legendary Racer "DAZA" make a comeback to show the current crop of racers how it's all done. Plagued by bad luck in the first 3 rounds DAZA took out the final round in his Breka Midget. This series has been great with the newly released "Western Springs Track" making for some good wide open racing. X-Man who made the track with less grip to slow the cars down and give them more of a "online Dirt" feel, has created something very unique as far as DTR2 goes. The lap times are even consistent with "real life" lap times! A week out from the finals night, here is X-Mans update.

After a hard fought 4 nights of racing, the fields for the midget and sprintcar NZ Opens have been established. 14 drivers competed, and are eligible for the final night, although with AMCA and POVC still chasing crocodiles up in Queensland, it looks like a provisional field of 12.

The line-up:

Midget A-Main Top 6.

Grid

1. Rikstr 20+18 38pts
2. Dazanz 10+20 30
3. Bull 16+14 30
4. XMan 9+16 25
5. Josho 14+ 0 14
6. Rig 0+12 12

B-Main (Top 2 finishers progress to A-Main)

Grid

1. Shadyglen 11+0 11pts
 2. Retro-Weed 0+11 11
- Spud 0, SD 0, Fan 0, Rocken 0.

Sprintcar A-Main Top 6

Grid

1. Rikstr 20+20 40pts
2. XMan 18+18 36
3. Bull 16+11 27
4. Josho 11+16 27
5. Dazanz 12+ 9 21
6. SD 0+14 14

B-Main (Top 2 finishers progress to A-Main)

Grid

1. Shadyglen 0+12 12pts
 2. The Fan 10+ 0 10
 3. Retro-Weed 9+ 0 9
- Spud 0, Rocken 0, Rig 0.

The finals night will be so close, anyone can take these 2 titles out as everyone is now tuned into this Track. Hot favourite DAZA, Chillibowl champion X-Man, NZ Stockcar Champ Bull, Aussie Ace's Josho n Rig, new comer Shadyglen, RocknRoll Star Rocken, Phsyco Killer ScreaminDemon, Hazey Retro Weedy, goodness gracious which one of these will prevail?

Good luck Guyz a full review will be included in our next issue.

THE TECH SECTION

IN THE WORKS.....

Coming soon to a track near you is the latest addition to the streetstock class. Unbeatabull has submitted his "Work In Progress" to give a sneak preview of whats to come....



Unbeatabulls first realease will be a hit with all the Ford fans out there, as he unleashes a Falcon (looks more like a cortine though) into the crash and bash class...We are also advised that this is only the first of many releases from Bull.

We managed to snap a couple of shots of the chassis on a recent test day, take a look!

3D Renders by BA Chaos. Thanks heaps.



PLAYER Q&A: KTWV Bull

This month we feature a relative newcomer to the KTWV and DTR2 scene, it's no secret that this player has made a serious impact on the online racing scene since joining the leagues. In what seems like "quicktime" this player has upped his online skills and now even has a few of the seasoned veterans wondering what it is that makes "Bull" such a force on the virtual dirt.....NZOSM decided to ask the youngster some questions, to find out how he answered,.....read on!

NZOSM Q: Bull, you surprised a lot of seasoned players by taking out the "N.Z. Stockcar" title on your first attempt, what was it like to win this title on your first attempt, and were you surprised to do so?

Bull A: To win a N.Z. title in itself is amazing, let alone doing it on my first attempt. I was overwhelmed really, and yeah it was just amazing.

NZOSM Q: Everyone that races online has a certain ontrack rival, who would you say is yours, and why?

Bull A: My on track rival ... hmmm ... would have to be Rikstr. Mainly because as soon as I was on the racing scene he was the one to beat, and beating him is a feat in itself.

NZOSM Q: Following on from that, most players will say that there is someone within the DTR2 community that they have respect for, in your mind who would that person be, and for what reason?

Bull A: I actually respect the whole KTWV community but especially Rikstr and Daza because if you have something go wrong, any questions etc they are always there to help.

NZOSM Q: As the KTWV community continues to grow,what would you like to see happen to the online speedway community in the future?

Bull A: I think that everyone needs to get along (even though 99% of the time we do) I just fear the one argument that could pull KTWV apart

NZOSM Q: What is it that appeals to you about DTR2 so much that you have decided to make it your game of choice?

Bull A: The reason I like DTR2 is mainly because it has our chassis, our tracks etc and I always love racing games.

NZOSM Q: Everyone has a favourite chassis/add-on for some reason, tell us your chassis, and track and include why you like them so much....

Bull A: Favourite chassis would have to be the Skullcrusher simply because its a stockcar and looks the best (in my opinion) and I also won the Nationals in it :). Favourite track ... hmmm thats a tough one probably Elm Street or Woodford Glen because The Glen is my home track and Elm Street is a track that can be raced with any chassis and is a lot of fun.

NZOSM Q: What would be your "Ultimate Online event"?

Bull A: Ultimate Event hmmm ... probably an event with 16 people on track at once (which unfortunately DTR2 cant do) and with a good mix of speed and stockcars.

NZOSM Q: If Ratbag Games had asked you "What you want to see in DTR2" your answer would be?

Bull A: In a Dirt Sim ... I would probably say the ability to fully mod the game, good graphics, physics etc and more people in a server.

NZOSM Q:Finally, What is your favourite thing about being involved in the KTWV, and Online DTR2 scene?

Bull A: The best thing about being in the KTWV scene is that it is with other Kiwi's and no time difference's etc and its just a lot of fun.

There it is....Unbeatabull like a Mcdonalds beef patty, managed to get through a severe "grilling" from the NZOSM team. Who will be selected for the next issues Q&A section?

NZ Stockcar Teams Racing: By SPUD

Teams racing, you either love it or hate it!

Hi I'm Spud and I'm Blocker for the KTWV Stockcar Team =uTu= , and this is only my point of view.

Online racing brings you close to real life with the only huge difference being you can afford to race any type of car. You don't need a sponsor or huge amounts a cash, late nights working on your car is now spent on setup and racing.

The team Vs team aspect of racing adds a bit extra to racing and again like in real life you sit and watch it or go get a hotdog. Personally I think Saloon car races were invented so people had time to get hotdogs before the next Stockcar race. Now over the years I have witnessed some awesome team's races at both Palmerston North and Ocean View speedway tracks, but there was no equal to the dimming of the lights in

Palmy as the Panthers came out to do their warm up laps. The Tank cruising around, this ultimate blocking machine has been the back breaker of many a team and I had only seen it damaged once. Teams these days, dare I say it, are quite well matched with cars. Where years ago it was rumored Bryce Penn spent thousands each season on just his Hemi 6. Teams usually consist of 3 Flyers and one Blocker, but there is no reason why you can't have 4 flyers. There has also been a couple of teams race formats, one being the normal placing of 1st, 2nd , 3rd etc, then there's the 1st car across finishing line WINS!. KTWV's new format sees two cars per team but more teams on the track, so who do you hit or block ?.

So to win a each member has to do their job , and do it to the best of their ability in this form of racing.

So lets take a look at my team, and before we start there are only 2 members from our old DTRSC Team =uTu= ;

Nolly is our Flyer , he must finish as high into points as possible. To do this he has to keep up the pace and try to avoid other teams Blocker

Tactically there are a few ways to do this;

Using a corner,

Straight line speed (to catch out a slow blocker),

Hit and hope tactic (trying not to take yourself out!)

Which ever you decide you must decide and commit to it, but remember that the loss of a flyer usually loses you the race.

Now let's look at the role of the Blocker.

I have raced a bit in real life but only as a 'B' grade driver and the closest thing I got to actually blocking was trying to put Dave Evans up the home straight wall, which I wasn't successful at all!.

My primary job is to assist Nolly (Flyer) by either slowing down opposition (block their race line)

take them out of race

and clear the track for Nolly (so he isn't blocked)

While more and more of our online racers are taking to Stockcars and Teams,

Why not look at starting your own team.

Here are a few tips that may help you ;

- Choose Team colours carefully: this helps your blocker
- Learn how to stay on your wheels when been rolled: I'm still learning
- Blocking a car: try slowing down an opposing car



INTERNATIONAL SCENE

NZ vs Aus Stockcar Test match, aka “Clash of the Titans”

The aussies won ☹️

REAL SPEEDWAY SCENE



Best of the Outlaws '06 Review

"The Fan" brings you the view from the stands at Bay Park Speedway, Mt Maunganui, New Zealand.

The fans had dreamed about it for many many years, the Promoter had planned it for two years and finally it happened. The WoO Sprintcars and their drivers racing right here on NZ soil. Clay to be exact. The Terracotta clay of New Zealand's newest and second largest speedway, Todd & Pollock Speedway Bay Park. 3 nights of the best Sprintcar racing ever seen in this country!

It was with great anticipation and excitement that I made my way to the gates of Bay Park on Thursday 26th January 2006 ready for the first night of Sprintcar action. The weather had been looking doubtful for the whole week but on the day all the rain cleared away and was never to be seen again until it was all over! The format for the three nights was the usual WoO format. Something a little different from what is usually used in this country but a very exciting one. Time trials for night one and two determine your heat starting grids, from there the top 5 cars from each heat make it to the A Main, the rest slot into the B or C main and try and fight their way thru from there. Two cars make it from the C to B main and 4 cars make it thru to the A main. Their starting grid is then determined by the qualifying times. The top 12 cars then have a 6 lap dash to determine their final grids for the A Main. Points are given each step of the way over the first two nights and these points are used to determine grid positions on the final night. The A main on the final night being the target with the winner taking home US\$20,000! Could the kiwis get anywhere near this?

Night one and the Americans were impressive right from the start! Steve Kinser, King of Speedway and 20 (!!!) time WoO winner set "Quicktime" on a track he had never raced on before - except for a few hotlaps - with a 13.063. The Best Kiwi time a 13.706 from 2NZ Allen Wakeling. Overall the Kiwis did a lot better than expected - 7 kiwis made it into the A main on the first night and 9 made the final field of 25. The noise and the speed of the cars can't really be captured in a review like this except to say it was as awesome as any Sprintcar meeting can be!

The track

I would have to say the track was as best it could be under the conditions. It rained for 3 or 4 days non stop before the racing giving very little time for much prep to be done. There were a few holes that did cause the drivers some major problems going into the turns and the constant getting covered in clay and fine dust in the stands was not particularly pleasant either, but all part of the overall experience.

The Action

Overall the action was worth going to see just because these drivers are the worlds' best and most have never been seen in this country before, but being used to a smaller track like Western Springs, I'd have to say the international fields we get there in Midgets every year usually makes for slightly more exciting racing than this. Just a few drivers stood out well above the rest. The best of these has to be the blue "1" car of Sammy Swindell. Sammy started on grid 12 in the final A main and worked his way thru to 3rd then just a few laps from the end of the 40 lap race, he hit a rut on turn 3 after a restart, and rolled his car. 3 others hit the same rut and numerous other cars either got involved in the incident or took evasive manoeuvres to get around it all. Sammy was out of his car in a flash, the car still on its side. He was halfway back to the pit gate when he decided to turn around and walk back to his car. The car wasn't actually too bad a condition but most drivers would still have called it a night. The wing was bent and there was some damage to the front. By this stage Sammy was already one of the crowds' heroes of the event.

He could have just left it there and the people would still have loved him, but much to the crowds delight, Sammy got back into this wreck, restarted and joined the back of the field for the restart!!! While fine on the straights, Sammy had to brake and go real slow to get the car thru the turns, and got lapped by the whole field twice in the remaining 6 or 7 laps but still an amazing performance!



Another standout performance over the 3 nights had to be the R19 of Jason Solwold. A pretty impressive paintjob with the Pink Panther painted on the wing, the car was reliable the whole time and Jason drove it to two 2nd placings and the win on the final night! Steve Kinser was so much quicker than everyone on the first night, but then problems set in that prevented him really stamping his mark on the whole event. If he had finished the final A main he definitely would have been hard to beat, but mechanical problems forced him out early on.

The only Kiwi to impress me was of course 2NZ 27A Allen Wakeling. He finished 8th on night one and was chasing hard for 2nd on Friday night before fading in the final laps to finish 6th. On the Final Night he too succumbed to problems and a DNF behind a massive rollover for 56A Carl Wilson coming out of turns 1 and 2. Carl walked away ok but the car was a mess! Jamie McDonald seemed to have problems the whole time too and was one of the cars that hit the same rut that Sammy Swindell did in the final A Main. This meant that the first kiwi home in that A Main was the 84M of Kerry Jones - 2 laps down!!!



Overall I felt the whole event was worth going to, just from the historical perspective, but not worth the \$120 ticket price as things could have been done better by several parties. The track wasn't perfect as mentioned above, the crowds weren't that big - seemingly due to a lack of advertising and build up of hype for the event, and being their first time down here, apparently the American cars were not fully prepared for the track conditions and size. A must see event that will be one of my top rated speedway meetings for some time to come, but the opportunity is still there to make it bigger and better next time!

NZ Sprintcar Champion - Kerry Jones. (Car owner Ron Salter)



Photo Taken by "Dougie"