

RACE REPORT

Round 1 – NSW & National F1 BEARS Championships, & NSW Formula Xtreme Pro twins Eastern Creek, NSW

7th & 8th February 2009



Being the first race meeting of the year for most of the competitors, everyone was keen to get out on the track. Sydney produced boiling temps on Saturday, making us wonder how the tires would hold up.

Having the only new Ducati 1198s in the field, it definitely drew some attention in the pits. It was a mad rush getting the bike prepared in time as it had only arrived a little over a week before the meet. Ashley and Beau were still chasing parts around Sydney on the Friday before Saturday morning practice and qualifying, and the first round of racing in the afternoon. They were lucky enough to have a second hand set of Ntec tyres which got Beau a 2nd on the grid in both classes.

The first race in Pro-twins, the 1198s launched off the start straight into the lead in front of Grant Hay on a Aprilia RSV 1000. Grant and Beau changed positions nearly every lap. The tyres did a great job but were about ready to retire. A 2nd position behind an A grade rider was more than the V-Twins Race Team expected on Beau's first race on the new bike.

Beau then lined up for the first BEARS race against Michael Frasers Radical 1098s. Another great start saw him leading the pack up until turn 8. Not risking anything, Beau came in with another admirable 2nd place.

Sunday turned out to be another hot one. Putting fresh rubber on first thing, we were hoping for some good lap times. Race 2 in Pro Twins was another battle between Grant Hay and Beau. The 1198s got the start with its unbelievable horsepower, but Grant had an answer straight away going up the inside into turn 2. Beau grabbed the lead back in turn 8 and held it with Grant right behind him for the rest of the race. Beau posted his fastest ever lap time at "the creek", an outstanding 1m 34.5s. This was 5 seconds faster than he had ever gone on the Ducati 999, and was only 0.6 of a second off the Australian lap record held by Craig McMartin.

Race 2 in the BEARS left Beau pretty lonely on the front row of the grid with Michael Fraser and Damien Suttons bike both out of action with mechanical failure. It gave Beau some good space on the track to work on some lines and constant lap times.

Due to a crash in his other class, Grant was unable to make the grid for Race 3 in Pro Twins. This didn't stop Beau from trying to put in some good lap times so we could keep progress the bike further.

Race 4 in Pro Twins had an even smaller grid again. Beau posted some good constant lap times without pushing the bike and him the race win and the round win.

Race 3 in BEARS had the grid looking smaller again with the hot weather taking its toll on the bikes and riders. However, this did not seem to affect the North Coast V-Twins Race Team's 1198s. Darren Lewis from Newcastle was positioned right up beside beau 2nd in the grid and keen for a drag off the start. The 1198s launched off the line once again to lead start to finish.

By Race 4 in BEARS everyone was just about exhausted with the heat giving no relief. The 1198 still had enough to lead the race start to finish with Beau setting a new National F1 BEARS lap record of 1m 35.5s. This was a great way to end the weekend.

A special thanks goes out to all the guys at North Coast V-twins for getting the bike ready in time; Bryan Thompson for coming all the way from Melbourne to help out; Skin By Finn and Col Roberts Signs for getting the fairing ready on such short notice; and to Ashley at North Coast V-Twins for all the organisation during the last few weeks.