

# Darryn guns for '07 Can Am title

## Pro Tour series provides plenty of drama at Zwartkops Raceway

### BY MOVING COMPROMISES

**D**arryn Lobb (DK Woodcraft) proved he is gunning for the 2007 Holland Shelby Can Am title at the Pro Tour race meeting held at Zwartkops race track on Saturday. The Spanjaard-sponsored event also hosted the latest rounds of the Investchem Formula Ford, Altech Porsche Unlimited and Porsche 924, and Formula Vee series.

Lobb took two convincing victories at the Pretoria circuit and now looks to be a strong threat in this year's Holland Shelby Can Am championship fight.

Donavan Roscoe (Stanley Tools) set the early pace, taking pole position for the day's first heat ahead of Darryn and father Neil Lobb. The race got off to a chaotic start with numerous cars taking to the gravel following a first corner crash that brought out the safety car. When the safety car period ended Darryn Lobb made a clean break and continued on unchallenged to take the victory. Roscoe hung on to take second place with Neil Lobb (DK Woodcraft) taking the final podium slot.

Darryn led from start to finish to take the second heat victory. He was closely pursued by father Neil, who set a new lap

record for the Shelby class while Donovan Roscoe took third place.

In the Altech Porsche Unlimited championship the big guns were out in full force to take on Vernon Bricknell's fire breathing GT2R that has won nearly every race it's entered this season. The eventful meeting saw the return of Franz Pretorius' ex-Le Mans 956 and the demise of Toby Venter's ex-Le Mans 911 GT2R.

It was obvious that Venter had seen enough of Bricknell's tailpipes this year, and entered the Zwartkops event with his highest caliber racing car. But it was not to be for Venter and his GT2R as he slipped off on



**CLOSELY PACKED:** Donovan Roscoe (left) and Darryn Lobb fight for the lead in the Holland Shelby Can Am pack.

**PICTURE: TONY AUVES**

The elusive Zwartkops' one minute lap time barrier and its respective R100 000 prize money is still yet to be broken, but with the calibre of racing in the Altech Porsche Unlimited Championship it is very likely to be unlocked in this series. Vernon Bricknell clocked a 1:02.7 in race one, and Pretorius also put in a flyer with a 1:02.9 in the same race.

In the Altech Porsche 924 Challenge Piet Nortje retained his position at the sharp end of the championship points ladder, as he scored a second in race one and fourth in race two. Due to the handicapping system, Nortje was forced to start at the very back of the grid and over a minute behind the first competitor, and his finishing positions gave him second overall on the day.

oil dropped on the circuit in qualifying and crashed into the barriers.

However, not to be outdone, Toby entered the race in his back-up car, a 997 GT3 Cup, and still managed to score some valuable points by finishing third in heat one, and second in heat two.

Franz Pretorius was also getting tired of seeing Bricknell's 2007 domination, and scored a victory and a second place on Saturday in his legendary Porsche 956, ex-Le Mans racer.

Bricknell was not going to take the onslaught lying down though, and retained his

Championship lead by winning the first race. Unfortunately for Bricknell, his monster 911 GT2R suffered a mechanical failure on his victory lap, and was unable to contest race two.

The Class B category was won by Sam Hammond and his Ferrari 360 Challenge on both occasions, while Izak Coetzee also took a double in Class C with his 993 Supercup.

Class D victories were shared between Markus Minihold's 911 and Rod Cole-Edwards' 911 RSR. Dave Fourie once again dominated Class E with his 911 RSR, and both Class F races went to Kevin Greig's 911 SC.



**EXOTICS IN ACTION:** Franz Pretorius was impressive in his ex-Le Mans Porsche 956, taking a win and a second place in the Altech Porsche Unlimited races.

**PICTURE: TONY AUVES**

First overall went to Braam van Niekerk who stole the show in race one with a victory and bagged second in heat two. Robert Scott won the second twelfth in race one, still managed to claim third overall.

The Investchem Formula Ford races belonged to Jayde Kruger, but Tannith Gardner also earned a lot of respect in her first race since 1999.

In the opening race Kruger led from lights to flag as he took a very comfortable 10-second win in his WAP/Alto Mygale. Craig Allan (Van Diemen) was runner-up, Mathew Mer-ton (Matsam Mygale) won a close battle for third place from Pieter Norval (Wheels-r-Us Mygale) with Gardner keeping them honest in the Ford Credit Mygale.

"It's nice to be back in a Formula Ford, and it's even better to be in the top six," she said.

The Zetec Challenge class was won by Allen Meyer in Les Donnees Mygale after an entertaining battle with British veteran Rick Morris (Investchem Mygale) that saw Meyer lose his nose early on.

Race two was another thriller. Kruger won, this time by five seconds from Allan, but it was a thrill a minute behind them.

Reynolds took third place with Gardner sixth this time.

The battle for Zetec Challenge honours ended in tears when Meyer lost it at the top of the hill and smote the barriers hard, which left Ian Schofield (Investchem Mygale) to take the win ahead of Andreas Petrou (Investchem Mygale).

Classifieds  
Thursday material  
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