

PORSCHE MICHELIN
SPRINT CHALLENGE
AUSTRALIA

2024

SYDNEY MOTORSPORT PARK ROUND 6 NEWS RELEASE

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ROUND 6 NEWS

Round 6 was the final round of this year's Porsche Michelin Sprint Challenge. It was set to be a cracking final round, with a condensed format and a night race on the cards.

Caleb headed into this round with a positive outlook, sitting 4th in the championship and already eyeing off the step to the Carrera Cup for the 2025 season.




Sydney Motorsport Park, or SMP as it is affectionately known, is a very technical and tricky circuit. It has many fast-flowing turns, two hard-braking hairpins, and a daunting turn 1 taken at 200 kph. It always provides good racing but is very punishing if you make an error in your lap.



PRACTICE

The practice at this round was only a single 45-minute session as part of the condensed format. Caleb rolled out the gate and punched out some competitive times straight away. Trading times with the top of the pack for the first 20 minutes. He was sitting in 3rd place when his car started to have a throttle sticking issue.

This became worse and ended in him having to shut the car down as it would no longer run properly.



The issue was not able to be rectified in the pits, and Caleb was forced to sit out the remainder of the session. This left him missing out on the new tyre runs that everyone else managed to do and he dropped down the order to 9th place by the end of the session.



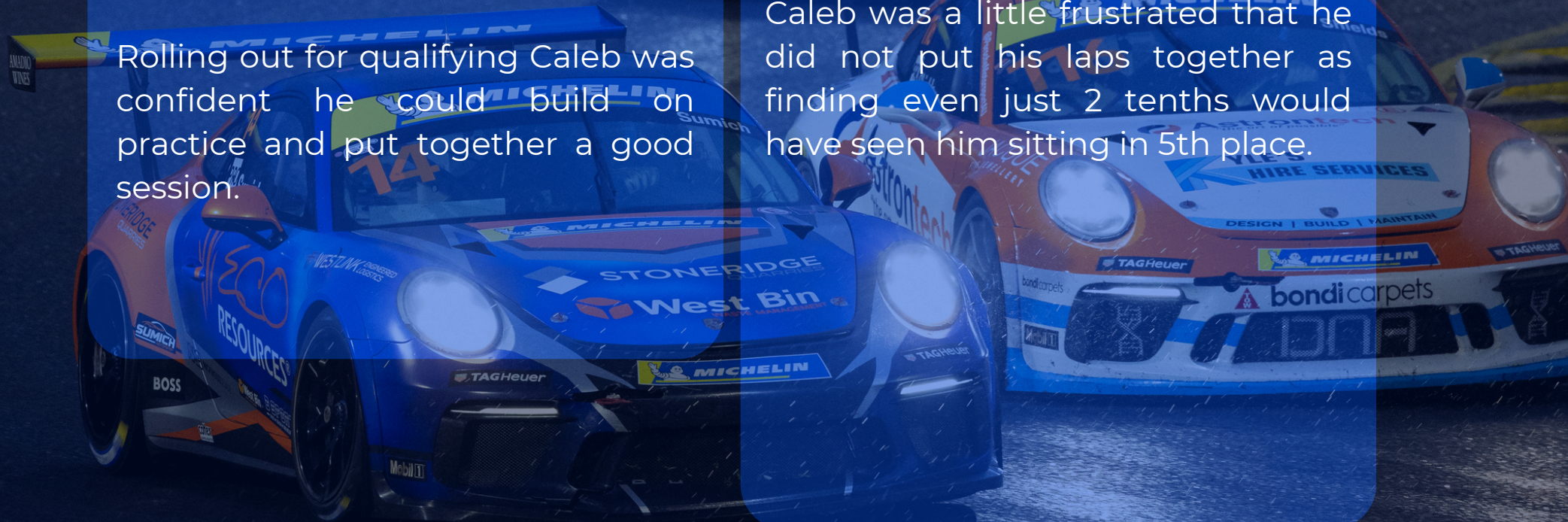
QUALIFYING

Qualifying was up next and with a tight turn around the team was working furiously to fix the issue in time. It turned out to be caused by an air leak in one of the inlets and the incredible McElrea team found the issue and had it rectified just in time.

Rolling out for qualifying Caleb was confident he could build on practice and put together a good session.

The session was extremely tight for the entire 30 minutes, with cars swapping positions constantly throughout the session.

The times were very tight and Caleb found himself on the wrong end of a tenth and sitting in 10th position. Caleb was a little frustrated that he did not put his laps together as finding even just 2 tenths would have seen him sitting in 5th place.





RACE 1

Race 1 was held under lights on Friday evening. Night racing is always exciting and makes for a great spectacle of glowing brakes, sparks and headlights peeling into the distance.

Caleb was determined to race hard and move himself up the grid.

As the cars rolled out on slick tyres, the heavens opened up and it continued to lightly rain for the entire race, making for extremely tricky and slippery conditions.

Caleb spent the whole race fighting for positions along with trying to keep the car on track. It was difficult to move forward and he slipped off the road at one stage, losing a couple of positions by the end of the race most of these resulting from a post-race penalty for early contact with another car. Such is the nature of racing in the wet on slick tyres.





RACE 2

Race 2 was held first thing Saturday morning and was the 45-minute endurance race for the weekend.

Determined to redeem himself from his race-one woes and the penalty, Caleb rolled out the gate with his sights set on moving forward strongly.

And move forward he did! With a great start and an excellent opening few laps, Caleb gained some ground.

He then set out after the cars in front and for 45 minutes, he chased down on overtook even more cars.

Caleb kept pushing to the flag and managed to make it past a few more cars.

By the end of the race, he had moved himself up to 7th position and was excited to show off the speed he knew he had.





RACE 3

Race 3 was the final race of the weekend and the final race of the 2024 season.

Coming into the weekend Caleb had set his sights on gaining 3rd position in the championship. With a few issues early on he switched focus to a strong recovery and maintaining 4th place in the series.

Caleb had another great start and gained 2 positions by turn 2.

He then found himself squeezed down on the inside and boxed in with nowhere to move.

This allowed one of the cars to get back past him.

For the entire 25 minutes, there was a train of the top 8 cars, all fighting and chasing hard.

Caleb was in this train and fought hard all race. The racing was tight and by the flag, Caleb had finished in 7th position.



● RECAP



Round 6 had a few setbacks, with a mechanical issue in practice and some tricky racing resulting in a penalty in race 1.

But Caleb fought hard and got himself back into the lead group.

As this wraps up the Michelin Porsche Sprint Challenge, Caleb managed to hold tight and secure 4th position for the 2024 championship, an incredible result in such a competitive championship. But that's only the beginning. Caleb has set his sights on the next chapter of his racing journey - the Carrera Cup!



● WHAT'S NEXT



With such a close turnaround between rounds, the next round of the Carrera Cup at the Gold Coast 500 will have already been run. I'm sure you will look forward to reading the report on that round.

The Adelaide Carrera Cup round is up next, but Caleb is heading back to Bathurst to work in the Radical team for their final round of the season.

Thank you to everyone for coming along for the ride in 2024. We're looking forward to sharing more exciting news, so stay tuned.

Until next time!





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