

STRAIP SCENE
IMPORT RACING

102



PRO IMPORTS GET READY TO RUMBLE

DRAGMASTERS – SATURDAY 7 JANUARY 2006 CHAMPION DRAGWAY

Right, what's this DragMasters all about we hear you ask? Well, it boils down to one thing... bragging rights. Yeah, it's about us import worshippers showing the old school who's King of Champion Dragway. For years, V8 guys have ruled the roost at Champion and now it's time for them to put up or shut up. Over a Friday afternoon session a few months back, we formulated a plan to take the guys on, heads up, at their own game. The old school reckons we don't know how to drag race. They reckon we turn up, time trial and then go home with our time slips. Well, after a few rib tickles we decided it was time to show the V8s what real drag racing is all about!



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The plan is simple: 'run what ya brung and hope ya brung enough'. Well it isn't quite that simple, but that's the plan. We're matching our best import and Sport Mod (NZDRA's new class) against a crew of old school V8s that have run similar times. The racing's going to be heads-up with upwards of 20 vehicles from each team chasing points to come out on top. There's going to be five rounds of racing with each win collecting one point for the team. The ultimate is to see our NZPC team come out with a down-troon on the NZV8 crew, so we have selected the best of the best as far as our side is concerned. At time of writing, we already have confirmation of the biggest turnout of import racers ever seen in New Zealand. We're talking about every available racer being there to stand up for our honour and the DragMasters bragging rights. Reece McGregor will be there in his Heat Treatments Skyline, Rod Harvey is in with the Rayglass Datto, Glenn Suckling is chomping at the bit with his Mag & Turbo GT-R and Stuart Lawton is coming with a new twin-turbo quad rotor. Word has it that Tony Bateson wants to kick some V8 butt in his RX-7 Heaven Mazda and Andre Simon, along with Zoheb Razak, will both be there holding up the Evo side of the team. We also have Brent Curran driving the Maz-Sport Cusco RX-7, Dean Hargreaves with his Rotamax RX-3 and Simon Dudding in his Silvia S13. There's a bunch of others still to be confirmed as we go to print, including the surprise re-emergence of



Brett Lee-Sang, who has some unfinished business in his street driven, nine-second Evo. There's even a rumour or two of a particular Croydon's sponsored former world record holder sneaking out of the workshop... get the picture yet? Imports are King and we intend to leave Champion

Dragway with the DragMasters title... Lining up against our finest will be the old school's best. There's a bunch of them who are past National Champions, and then there's others who hold national records in their respective classes. First on the list is NZDRA's Chris Tynan; we all



know him for running both the PAC Performance-built RX-3 and more lately, Maz-Sport Cosco's RX-7 to their best performances. Well Tynan normally runs a six-second doorslammer and the V8 boys have lured him out of our team to take on Reece McGregor in the Heat Treatments Skyline.

Both teams reckon high sevens are on the cards, so this will be just one of the monster battles to keep an eye on. Tynan will be running Laurie Ulrich's big block Camaro, which features a 500 hit of nitrous to push it into the deep, deep eights.

Rod Harvey has all the hot rod gear to step up a notch for Rayglass and he is yet another to be predicting sevens this summer. Up against him will be Reece's brother Kevin McGregor. This guy is a very, very accomplished racer with numerous titles and a bunch of records under his belt. He's stepping up a notch or two to campaign the family's Heat Treatments Camaro this season, which ran 8.40s two years ago without nitrous or a full chassis.

They've bumped it a notch or two with some of the best equipment America can throw out, so he's got the job of trying to control Harvey's march.

Tony Bateson will hopefully be into his seven-second performances by the time DragMasters rolls around, as the V8 crew have hauled Roger Binnema all the way up from Balclutha to take him on. Both these teams are predicting a dip into the sevens this summer, so not only are they racing each other, they'll also be chasing the clock. Binnema's Cylinder Head Services Honda Accord runs a supercharged Chev and until last season, was reigning National Champion in NZDRA's Top Street division.

Glenn Suckling's Mag & Turbo mount is a bit of a dark horse as far as predictions are concerned. We all know he's already bumped an 8.40 out of the GT-R and is probably one of the best on the lights in our team. He's been thrown in with the Wildcat Jag of Auckland's Graham Carter, who is renowned for massive sky-high launches and other cunning stunts to freak his opponents out.

Zoheb Razak is the man who's going to do the damage to Wellington's Graeme Bates competing in the only turbo V8 in the field. Bates has a radical twin turbo six-litre Chev-powered Vauxhall. Zoheb has the consistency to outrun Bates, who spends a large amount of time with his front wheels hanging in the air, losing forward momentum in the meantime. This should be a real cat and mouse match.

Andre Simon probably has the toughest battle of all the quick imports. He has to take on the cagey Scott Campbell. This guy wins races in whatever he drives (including a 20-second van), so Andre is going to have to be on his game plan. We have no doubt the wick will be wound up to ensure the import stays King against Campbell's 8.5-second Mustang.

As you can see, what we're talking about here is the biggest, nastiest turnout of import competitors ever in New Zealand, with a complete support field of 250 racers (that means you're invited as well) to make January 7 the best event of the summer.

The gates open at 3pm and racing will go through into the evening, so the air will be perfect for record



setting performances. Champion has guaranteed full track preparation, so this is going to be a big one. Next month we'll give you a full run-down on who else is going to be racing at the 2006 NZPC/NZV8 DragMasters. It's out a week before January 7, so make sure you pick up a copy to see who we're going to beat! And just in case you're wondering, expect to see a whole lot more heavy hitters on the list.

Yeah, we're serious about winning this one, so make sure you scratch the date on your surfboard, dashboard or breadboard before you go on holiday. And one last thing, check out www.dragmasters.co.nz for full details on support racing, competitions, prizes, driver profiles and everything else you need to know about the biggest thing to hit Kiwi drag racing... ever!

CULLIMORE RUNS THE NUMBER

You may remember in last month's issue we mentioned that Christchurch's Bruce Cullimore aimed to be the newest member of our NZPC 10-Second Club, and that's exactly what happened the next time he took the car to the strip. At Ruapuna Drag Strip, Bruce piloted his B18C-powered FWD Integra to an 11.04, followed by an 11.02 and an 11.00, which Bruce described as a "very frustrating run". Then it finally happened, Bruce drove the Integra to a new PB of 10.94 @ 206kph on DOT-Approved Hoosiers, 20psi and a stripped out interior. Congratulations Bruce, and welcome to the 10-Second Club from the NZPC team!

