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## Webling – fast but furious after Manfeild

MTA Formula Ford scholarship winner, Stefan Webling, came away from the penultimate round of the MTA Formula Ford championship pleased with the performance of his Altherm/VnC Van Diemen, but furious that clashing with other drivers on the track deprived him of vital championship points.

“My Motorsport Solutions Team had done a lot of work preparing for this meeting as we had not quite been on the pace in the South Island,” Stefan, at the same time recognising that he had not been feeling particularly well down South. “We were again putting in competitive times and in fact took the fastest lap time of both the second and third races – so the car and I were working well.”

The Taranaki driver qualified in third place, fractions behind Mitchell Evans and Richie Stanaway, pleased with his performance in the difficult damp conditions.

The first race featured a great battle for the lead between Evans and Stanaway with Webling challenging Matthew Penrose for third when Stefan’s team-mate, Jamie McNee, made an ambitious move to pass him on the inside of Higgins corner and the two touched, spinning Webling out of contention. He was able to continue but finished in seventh place while up front Stanaway won the race after Evans had an oil pump problem.

Webling got a great start in race two, leading Evans for the first five laps after Stanaway spun at the first corner. Evans then made the pass on Webling and for the rest of the race Webling pushed Evans as hard as he could, setting the fastest lap of the race in the process. Well back in third was Damon Leitch.

For his great effort in race two, Webling started from pole position and led for the first three laps until Evans again managed to pass him around the sweeper. Webling hung on to him, but at the same time was having to fend off the threatening Martin Short. Then, going in to the hairpin, with cars on the limit, they rode over each other, Webling coming off worst with damaged suspension. Nevertheless he was able to continue slowly, hoping to finish and gain some points. However, the car’s steering failed after 10 laps and he had to retire, his only satisfaction being to have again set the fastest lap time of the race.

“Very disappointing when the car was obviously going so well. At least I am still in third place in the championship and am looking forward to the final round at Pukekohe where I am confident we can catch up some points,” said Webling.



Stefan at Manfeild  
Photo: SportPromedia

Points: Stanaway 1073, Evans 976, Webling 939, McNee 863, Penrose 825, Leitch 820.

Next and final round: March 14-15 Pukekohe Park.

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