

Daniel Ricciardo Series Round 4, Buckmore Park: strong pace, big progress and a frustrating finish

We headed to **Buckmore Park for Round 4** of the Daniel Ricciardo Series with one clear target: to turn our pace into a podium.

SATURDAY: Practices

After dealing with a few engine issues, we sorted it all out and managed to get some quick laps down, notably a 30.38, 3 tenths quicker than last year's lap record, but we didn't have the transponder on. Nevertheless, this was a great sign that we were super quick and were on for at least a podium.

Qualifying: P4

Some rain came down, but only a little, so it was a matter of just dealing with the temperamental conditions, and I was getting quicker every lap. Unfortunately, towards the end we caught a lot of traffic and laps that were **on for pole got ruined** at the final sector many times, but 4th was something we could work with.

SUNDAY: Races

Heat: P3 ↓ P5

At the start we got shuffled down a few places and now we had to **work our way back** up, which I managed to do, but just frustrating as we know we were quick enough to be at the front.

Pre Final: P5 ↑ P3

I managed to get up to **2nd on the start** and was challenging for first relentlessly but just got caught out and shuffled back down to third and spent the rest of the race fighting with both.

Final: P3 ↓ DNF

Not much to explain here, just clipped a barrier down the hill on the opening lap and sheared off the **track rod from the stub axle**. In my opinion it was the result of an evasive manoeuvre, but nevertheless my best weekend of the season had come to a frustrating end, with me watching the rest of the race from a marshal's post.

Overall, this weekend was a great **step up** from the rest of the year's not-so-great results and to finally get a much-needed podium on the board, but to not get to points in the big haul of the Grand Final was hard to swallow.

Thanks as always to my parents and **Simon** on the spanners, perfecting the setup and fixing all my mistakes!