

# First appearance of Gardner's Chev

Frank Gardner's new Chev Corvair is due to get its first look at Oran Park on Friday in preparation for the Daily Mirror sponsored National Sports Sedan title round.

Sunday week's event will be the first race appearance for the new car, which is rumored to have cost heaps of money and looks a certain Moffat-Monza beater.

But what sponsor is footing the bill?

At the moment the car is painted plain white.

I'm tipping some blue will be added to that and it will run under a tobacco company's flag, bringing a famous English racing name to the local scene.

The problem is racing budgets don't stretch forever and if I'm right we could see a well known driver looking for a new sponsor.

Meanwhile the field for the title round is shaping up well, with Ian Geoghegan back in the spotlight following his good win at Amaroo on Sunday in the Craven Mild Monaro.

It was all stops out for Geoghegan as he took the lap record down to 53.5 sec — an average of better than 130 km/h.

The others weren't hanging about either. Bond did a 53.8 sec while Jim Richards was also inside the record of 54.1 with a 54 sec lap.

It was a day of records at Amaroo with both Ross Bond (Bolwell) and Peter Hopwood (Elan) breaking

## MOTOR RACING

With JOHN WALLIS



COLIN BOND



FRANK GARDNER

their class marks in the production sports race and surprise packet Russell Sakife taking the touring car lap down to 58.7 — times that could stand for quite a while.

### Right way

The sports-racing boys (sports cars, class A in CAMS mumbo-jumbo) seem to be going about things in the right way.

Not to be outdone by the production sports cars they have gone out and found themselves a sponsor for a couple of races, and

guaranteed a competitive field of cars.

This certainly gives the promoter things on a plate.

The two race series for the Beare and Ley trophy will be run at the next two Oran Park meetings.

A bit of go ahead action like this could be the salvation of the F5000 class which seems to be having more and more trouble finding free-spending race sponsors.

Fortunately, Rothmans has come to the party again for the 1977 international series.

# MOFFAT CAN FAIL

Can they beat the Moffat-Monza? That's the big question surrounding the Daily Mirror National Sports Sedan title round at Oran Park on Sunday week.

My tip is yes, they can. And I'm betting Allan Moffat's Monza could be relegated back as far as third in the two-heat race.

The Mirror race will be run over two 20-lap heats of the short circuit and has attracted the best field available.

### Winner

Moffat will be up against Colin Bond (Torana), Ian Geoghegan (Monaro), Jim Richards (Mustang) and, of course, the new Frank Gardner Chev Corvair, due to get its first run at the Park late today.

I think at least two of these could finish ahead of Moffat.

Everything will depend

By BOB SKELTON of the Daily Mirror racing team.

on how well Gardner's car shapes up, but if Gardner's past record counts for anything, it will be a winner.

He has won a reputation as Australia's top car developer and his services are keenly sought whenever anyone is testing a new car.

Following Sunday's effort at Amaroo, you have to give Ian Geoghegan a great chance.

Two wins and a lap record of 53.5 secs must be the right form.

And remember, Geoghegan beat Moffat in one of the two heats of the Sandown title round some weeks ago.