

Corvair sets lap record at Calder

By CHRIS DE FRAGA

Frank Gardner, of Sydney, set a lap record for sports sedans in his new controversial Chevy Corvair on his way to two easy wins in the Marlboro Sports Sedan events at Calder Motor Raceway yesterday.

A crowd of 10,000 saw Gardner twice lap at 44.3 sec., a tenth of a second faster for the 1.6 km circuit than Bob Jane's record, on his way to winning the third heat, the final Marlboro Sports Sedan event.

Chasing Gardner, Jan's Monaro first dropped oil on to the exhausts, then the track, spun on the oil and caught fire.

Not realising the car was on fire, Jane restarted and completed 500 metres before smoke filled the cabin and he retired the car to the pits.

He was unhurt and the fire out when the car reached the pits.

A carefully controlled drive gave Ian "Pete" Geoghegan second place in the Craven Monaro, with Jim Richards third in the Mustang.

Tony Edmondson retired his Charger when lying third to Gardner three laps from the finish.

Gardner also won the first heat from Edmondson.

Richards, with 26 points, continues to lead the sports sedan title from Garry Rogers, Jane, David Robertson and Allan Moffat.

Alan Hamilton's Jag Porsche won the third round of the Australian Sports Car Championship from "Pete" Geoghegan's Porsche but with 24 point, Geoghegan retains the leadership of the series.

Hamilton, who is now second in the series with 15 points, struggled with the 934 Porsche on cold, slick tyres in a wet first heat to take second to Geoghegan's 911RSR Porsche, a three-litre model without a turbo-charger.

In the second heat, the two cars touched, Geoghegan hitting Hamilton's front wheel in the esses and forcing Hamilton from the lead to second for three laps, until he'd decided the car hadn't been badly damaged.

"The steering arm was bent, the wheel a quarter of a turn out of place and the car unstable under brakes," said Hamilton after he'd powered past Geoghegan in the straight to an easy win.

Kevin Bartlett overcame an engine misfire to win the F5000 heats in his Lola T400 beating Garrie Cooper in the Elfin MR8 in the first, and John Goss in the Match A53 in the second.

On the warm-up lap, Ian Adams' Lola T332 hit a



• Frank Gardner wins in his Corvair.

patch of water on the straight and spun, taking Goss's car with him, the pair rotating down the straight at more than 200 kmh.

Neither touched anything,

but Goss was forced to change a tyre worn through in the spin before he could start in the second race. Adams didn't start.

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round of the Marlboro \$100,000 series. And he did it in his new Chevrolet Corvair — a car still in the testing stage.

Gardner was pressed by his business associate Bob Jane in a Monaro for 13 of the 20 laps. But Jane overdid things at the S bends and ran off the circuit.

Smoke suddenly started pouring from Jane's car and he hot-footed it back to the pits, trailing a huge cloud.

Jane's bad fortune was good luck to Jim Richards in a Mustang.

At the same meeting, Frank Gardner showed he was not over the hill when he easily beat the cream of the sports sedan drivers in the third

Richards retained his lead in the points table with 25 points and widened the gap over second-placed Jane, from three to 10 points.