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GARDNER AGAIN IN TASMANIA

—JOHN BROCK REPORTS

SYMMONS PLAINS SEPTEMBER 26 — FRANK GARDNER SHOWED THAT ALL HIS experience and the technical superiority of his Players Number 6 Chevrolet Corvair make a pretty hard row for the rest to hoe in sports sedan racing. Frank dominated all of practice, and then both of the 20 lap heats which made up round six of the Australian Sports Sedan Championship here today.

No less than 15,000 people turned up at this north Tasmanian circuit, most of them right behind local driver Tony Edmondson, who scored two fine second places in the Don Elliott Repco Charger.

Pat Crea posted 3rd after a busy weekend for his mechanics. Vince Gregory's VW suffered from overheating problems but still posted 4th after a heady drive.

Fifth and sixth were filled by local triers in Ed Conacher, Torana, and Peter Wells in the incredible Holden powered Viva. Jim Richards had a luckless day with clutch troubles, a tangle with the back marker and then being black flagged for dropping oil.

The other mainlanders who were short on luck were Gary Rogers in the unbelievable Shell Escort.

Rogers did achieve, in demolishing the under 2000 record lopping a mighty 8 seconds under leaving the record at 63.7 for the 2.4 km course.

Rex Monahan had brake trou-

ble and finished his day after a spin in the last lap with the rear brakes blazing merrily.

John Briggs, Torana, showed good times but was side lined with battery wiring troubles.

The Barrylyn Huitt Volkswagen never made the line after a gigantic blow in an early race.

Also not to make the line was Jim Smith, Camaro after blowing a head gasket on Saturday in the first practice session.

A gasket was flown in that night but the car wasn't ready in time.

The local lineup consisted mainly of Toranas, the fastest being John Zeigler with the Chev powered beast.

The fastest of the six cylindered Toranas was Ed Conacher's ex-Graeme Smith Torana with Parsons in his L34 production next.



RACING CAR NEWS, October, 1976,

Gardner Kills 'em Again

THE John Player Corvair driven by Frank Gardner sliced 1.8 seconds off the lap record in winning both 20-lap heats of the Australian Sports Sedan Championship round at Symmons Plains on September 26. After taking pole position with a 56.9 (lap record 59.8, Peter Brock), Gardner led all the way in both heats to score easily from Tony Edmondson (Ansett Charger), with Jim Richards (Sidchrome Mustang) third in one heat and Pat Crea (Cortina V8) third in the other. Gardner left the record at 58 seconds. Gardner has now scored seven straight wins with the Corvair and, although he has started in only two rounds of the Championship, has moved into third place on 18 points. Allan Moffat, who missed Symmons Plains, leads on 34 points and cannot be beaten with only one round to go, while Tony Edmondson is currently second on 21. Last round of the Championship is at Calder on December 5. (Full report on Symmons Plains in our next issue.)