

LEONARD RACING TEAM



ROSS LEONARD - STOCKCAR 94B

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With a night of hard racing during meeting two there was lots of work to get done on the 94b car, the engine was out waiting for parts from Ozzy, the chassis had lots of cracks and bent bits, and every time I looked at the car I found more to fix! It was not looking too good for getting the car to the meeting being late Friday night and still no engine in the car. As always team sponsor Steve Jude stepped up, staying late in his workshop to get my engine back together, we really owe this guy big time, this car would just not be without his help, so it was a late night in the shed getting the engine back in the car, I gotta say it all went together really well, that often doesn't happen!

I left Saturday to do the finishing bits and the car was fired up about lunch time. The starts for the night were to be four cars wide, hmm, didn't really wanna be on the outside so got up and out the gate nice and early, was in grid two with the drop of the flag, first corner there were cars everywhere, somehow we stayed in a straight line and hit the front early, the track was wet but the car was hooking up real nice and we must have pulled out a good lead.

I was really happy with the handling but as the engine got hot it went off song a little, the pace must have been ok tho as I was still lapping cars, as the race laps ran down the car felt slower with power being sucked out of the engine someplace, I could see in the mirrors the pack of cars behind me were coming, where the hell is the white flag!! Ah, there it is, with clear track in front I was pretty sure I was ok, then coming out of the last turn, with the checkers in the flagman's hand, the race stopped! Buzzer!! Then a flag man asked me to push a dead car off the track! I'm thinking, "dude, I'm trying to win a race here!! Lol, funny what goes thru your mind sometimes. So I push off the dead car and the race is called, a race win, first win in this car and yes it felt great to hold the flag.



Ross Leonard completing his victory lap. Thank you to Chris Morris (Racpics) for usage of photo.

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I made some changes to the engine and out for the second, got a really good start pushing thru a number of cars in the first turn, then up the inside of Pete Barry in the pit bend to take the lead, yes I know, you should never just pass Peter Barry, lol, he half turned me down the straight, then he did a nice move to come back and flick me to the wall, I thought, gee, nice move!! Anyway I backed off the fence to find my right wheel was not turning, one DNF.

The only real problem with that race is we didn't get to see if the engine was better, and as we found in race three, it was not, with a real lack of power I pulled off. We will get to the bottom of the engine problems, no worries there, we were happy to have a good handling car for the night, and we know how fast the car can be when running right, so roll on next meeting!

Ross Leonard
94B