



THE GIZ OK AFTER A LATE CRASH

A productive start to the Norton 360 Sandown Challenge event with SP Tools Racing's Shane van Gisbergen finished Friday's practice 5th quickest. Shane van Gisbergen – Driver, SP Tools Racing Car #9

“Today was good, I really didn't get the best out of the first set of tyres and was just getting used to the track again, we were just playing into it and tuning the car up. When we put new tyres on the car was great, in the end we decided to save them for tomorrow, we will keep the car as it is tonight and try some things in qualifying tomorrow.

“The guys that finished quicker have a bit more pace but there is definitely plenty left in the SP Tools Falcon.”

In Saturday's opening race of the Norton 360 Sandown Challenge Shane van Gisbergen put in a gutsy drive to finish 9th. The race started in dramatic fashion when an incident on the opening lap caused a safety car that was later upgraded to a red flag delaying the restart by 20 minutes as race officials repaired a damaged tyre wall.

After another dreadful qualifying session van Gisbergen started from 18th on the grid. In the race, that was later cut short 7 laps due to the delay, van Gisbergen fought back and overcame an illness to move inside the top ten.

Shane van Gisbergen – Driver, SP Tools Racing Car #9 “We can't work out why we can't make the tyres work for us in qualifying, it's really frustrating but looking at the data after the race we are one of the quickest cars out there, we just need to get our act together for qualifying and it will make the job in the race alot easier.”

A late race crash put an end to a spirited charge from SP Tools-driver Shane van Gisbergen in the second Norton 360 Sandown Challenge race in Melbourne on Sunday

Like Saturday's race, Sunday's was red-flagged and re-started, this time because officials had to clear the wreckage of the Holdens of Will Davison and Michael Caruso from the tyre walls. Having again struggled in qualifying, this time posting the 14th best lap time, van Gisbergen had his work cut out but with a set of sprint tyres on for the first stint he made his way quickly forward getting to seventh place before his first scheduled pit stop, at which he took on fuel and swapped the sticky tyres for a set of standard compound ones. The idea was to re-fit the stickies at the second pit stop but when the red flag came out on lap 34 - ironically with van Gisbergen #2 on the road - the nature of the race changed.

Both van Gisbergen and fellow front row re-starter Dean Fiore had to take to the grass on the re-start as their cold tyres failed to give them the grip they needed and van Gisbergen was shuffled back down the order to seventh place by those around him who had

elected to run their stickie tyres through the middle of the race Once the stickies went back on at the second pit stop van Gisbergen was back in with a chance, however, and he had made it back up from 20th after the stop to seventh on the road when a broken steering arm bolt saw him spear off the track into the tyre wall with just two laps to go.



SP Tools for Kids Charity Program is supporting Ronald McDonald House Charity in 2010



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