



MEDIA RELEASE
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ROLLINSON WINS CLASS B NZ PRODUCTION RACING SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Gene Rollinson driving his Mazda3 MPS has won Class B of the New Zealand Production Racing Series title for 2008/2009 with one round still remaining. This exceptional result means back to back season wins for the Zoom Zoom Mazda3 MPS.

Rollinson not only won the championship in his first season behind the wheel of the Mazda he has also set new lap records at five of the six circuits and accumulated more points than any other competitor in MotorSport New Zealand Championship Classes.

"I have had such a fantastic time racing for Mazda this season and the result is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the team," said Rollinson.

Mazda New Zealand national service manager John Van der Velden said Mazda is really proud of Gene's performance.

"He said at the start of the season that his goal was to be at the front of the Production Racing Series and he certainly achieved that. His results confirm his position as one of the country's most talented young drivers and we are sure he will have a great future in the sport."

The penultimate round at Manfield turned out to be a character building weekend for the Mazda crew. The Mazda3 MPS suffered engine management problems during a practice run with the Mazda crew working until 3.00am on race day to rectify the issue.

"Despite this Gene performed well in all three races, winning race two by a six second margin," said Van der Velden.

During the first race Rollinson was forced to brake heavily to avoid a slower lapped car, however with two other vehicles following closely, the MPS was involved in a nose to tail accident. The car finished the race second in its class.

The third and final race was a reverse grid start with a time delay between classes. Because of the win in race two, Gene started at the back of the group B cars. Rollinson quickly passed all other vehicles in his class and set a new lap record for Class B. Gene lead the race outright for most of the race duration and extended the gap back to the second placed car (also a Mazda3 MPS) before the car started to lose power, eventually coming in second overall by only a car length.

Rollinson currently sits on 1301 points with 13 wins and five seconds out of 18 races, and the final round of the series to be held at Pukekohe, 13-15 March.

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For more information please contact:

John Van der Velden
Mazda Motors of New Zealand Ltd
Ph: (64-9) 571 9727
Email: jvelden@mazda.co.nz

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