

PORSCHE

GT3 CUP CHALLENGE NEW ZEALAND



2009/10 Battery Town Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge - Round two: Ruapuna 28-29 November 2009

Courtney Letica's weekend diary: I guess this is one of those life defining moments. The weekend's second round of the Battery Town Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge series was one I really looked forward to.

After last year's disappointing result at Ruapuna near Christchurch and having achieved so much at the Pukekohe opening round, I felt I was prepared to put everything together and achieve a good result.

Friday practise:

Arriving early Friday for the first of two practise sessions, the warm weather was apparently not going to last, so I really had to concentrate on learning as much as possible while things were good.

Ruapuna is a very difficult circuit to be fast on. As one corner leads in to another, the flat nature makes it very technical, hard to get right and rewarding when you begin to link things together. Finishing fifth fastest in the first practise was the perfect start - given drivers with much more experience were behind me. The afternoon practise was much more difficult. High winds were whipping up huge dust clouds that not only made visibility difficult but kept changing grip on the track. So while I was sixth fastest, I had plenty to review and compare to the other Triple X Motorsport drivers - that included David Reynolds, returning from racing in V8 Supercars.

Saturday qualifying:

Expecting Saturday to be wet - it sure was, that kind of light misty rain that does a good job of making a surface evenly wet - such as a race track.

My plan was to follow either David Reynolds, Craig Baird or Daniel Gaunt - as we had a strategy to help each other stay in the driest line. However we had to spend a few laps warming everything up first. Having passed the start/finish line, I was in to my first full lap - adding to my speed. Turn one felt okay even though I could tell things were very slippery, but to be honest that's where things start to get cloudy.

I don't honestly know what happened next and until I get to see the data from the car and watch television footage - the rest is a bit of a mystery.

I'm now in hospital and will be until Wednesday, when I can return to Auckland. All I know is the car left the track, hit an earthwall and I got knocked unconscious. Thankfully there are plenty of safety crews at the circuits and they had me assessed and extracted quickly.

I can't begin to share how disappointed I am. It's not something you ever dream of having happen when everything is pointing in such a strong direction. But I'm now in hospital, being treated for concussion and have a fracture in my left ankle.

The car is in bad shape and while the team got it rolling to load it in the transporter, we're planning on having everything ready for a return at the next round in the New Year. That's a big statement, but it's the faith from my dad Nick, mum and sister that they're supporting me to only look ahead.

All I can do is prove we can only move forward, learn from this life lesson and look forward to a quiet Christmas and New Year. Our Porsche title aspirations have dropped considerably, but life is for the long-haul and we're all in this together.



NEXT RACE: Teretonga, Invercargill 15-17 January 2010 Round three of six.

