

BRENDON LEITCH ENDS SERIES ON A HIGH

Eighteen year old Brendon Leitch of Invercargill has finished the 2014 Toyota Racing Series on a high with eleventh place in the New Zealand Grand Prix after a fine drive from the back of the grid.

Brendon had a tough start at Manfeild after a difficult round at Hampton Downs last weekend, qualifying well down the order. However it was then that his Nelson based Victory Motor Racing team discovered a problem with the car that had caused the difficulties the previous week. Damage from a crash at Highlands Motorsport Park in Cromwell during Round 3 of the series that was not immediately apparent was discovered and with that remedied Brendon was back on the pace. He charged from the back of the field in the Dan Higgins Memorial Trophy race on Saturday afternoon to finish fifteenth and was gaining more places in Sunday morning's race when the throttle jammed, pitching him into the wall. With the car repaired for the New Zealand Grand Prix later that afternoon Leitch put in a brilliant drive, again climbing from the rear of the field to finish eleventh in his first appearance in New Zealand's most prestigious domestic motor race.

After several top ten placings in the first three rounds of the series the problem had hampered Brendon in his latest outings but once the damage was repaired he again showed his ability.

Looking back on his first taste of the very competitive series Brendon said, "it was good. It was a lot of hard work but hopefully I will be back next season now that I have my first experience of wings and slicks cars."