

Teenager teams up with local hero to win Battle

By Mat Kermeen

Teenage sensation Jack Miers showed no respect for his elders at AmPro Tools Woodford Glen Speedway on Saturday night when he teamed up with Malcolm Ngatai to win the 2012 Canterbury Water Blast Battle of the Stocks.

The Palmerston North rookie shot to stardom at the end of last season and his stocks continue to rise after his performance against one of the best fields in the Battle of the Stocks 19 year history.

Three time national champion, Craig Boote, was impressed and full of praise for the 17 year old. "I've made the prediction he's going to be a multiple champion. He's very sharp," Boote said.

New Zealand Champion Joe Faram, Adam Joblin and Peter Bengston scored heat wins on Friday night as some high profile pairings fell out of contention for the iconic event.

Local Peter Field and Nelson's Brett Nicholls were both casualties of a first corner pile up in heat two.



Nicholls, left lying on his side while Field was shunted high into the catch fence. Nelson's Shane Harwood was another left stranded, being pushed up the turn three wall. An accidental move, Harwood was simply caught on the outside as drivers fought for room on a greasy track in the third heat.

The Miers/Ngatai combination held the overnight lead, just one point clear of the second placed pairing of Boote and last year's winner Graeme Barr.

Scott Joblin started Saturday night

successfully, winning the top 12 shoot out but all the interest was in Boote attacking Ngatai. "The Boss" striking some significant hits which caused minor damage to Ngatai's machine but the local hero still finished.

The pairing of Miers and Ngatai shared the heat four and five wins in what was fast, entertaining and enjoyable racing despite the fact there was little contact. Boote and Barr were up for the challenge, their consistency meant despite the leading pair's two victories they started the final heat just two points behind the leaders.

Boote said he and Barr were a big chance before the final heat but he thought they could be targeted. He was right.

Scott Miers, out of contention, had one mission in the final heat, to stop Boote. He soon had his man, in a textbook move he eased Boote into the turn four wall, holding him for long enough to ensure his son and



Ngatai victory.

Barr was also in the firing line, receiving treatment from both Scott and Simon Joblin as Ngatai punctured and fell back to 15th. Phil Ogle won the heat over Faram but Jack Miers' third was enough for him and Ngatai to enjoy a 14 point victory.

Hawkes Bay's Gary Foley and Nick Selfe earned fifth place overall although Selfe was a little disappointed he couldn't offer more support to Foley. Still adjusting to his new rocket, Selfe failed to finish two races, the pair finishing a massive 135 points off the leaders.

Scott Joblin and Ian Clayworth finished fourth although it could have been different had Clayworth not failed to finish two races which cost the pair any realistic chance at the title.

Adam Joblin and Nelson's Ricky Boulton finished third, 64 points off second but comfortably ahead of Joblin and Clayworth. Adam Joblin was fast all weekend while Boulton did a fine job, especially when nursing his crippled car home in the final heat.

Boote and Barr were both consistently fast and deserved their second place but they were always going to strike trouble in the final heat. The pair seemed to have a lot of enemies and few supporters on track.

It's hard to believe that a 17 year old has won the Battle of the Stocks but Jack Miers is a freak that will win many more major titles before he faces up to the yard glass on his 21st birthday. For Ngatai, it was a third success in the Battle and a satisfying result after spending two months racing in the North Island this season.

Miers junior admitted to a few nerves before the final heat but was determined to keep charging hard and bank as many points as possible.

"There was a fair bit of pressure before that last race. I didn't know who was going to help me or who was going to take me out.

"I Just tried to stay down on the pole line and keep it clean because I knew there was going to be a bit of carnage," Jack Miers said after his victory.

Next season will mark the 20th anniversary of the iconic event and Jack Miers had no hesitation when asked if he will return to defend his title.

"Absolutely, I can't wait to come back and have another crack, it's an awesome track and an event that everyone wants to be part of."

Jack Miers also won the individual title over Adam Joblin and Boote.

Adam Joblin was thrilled with his results in his first attempt at Battle of the Stocks after racing a Stockcar on the undercard last season.

"It was a real honour to be invited. It's a prestigious event with a lot of fast cars so just to be involved was great, anything else was a bonus. I'm definitely happy with third and second in the individual," he said.

Simon Joblin also had individual success breaking the lap record on Saturday night with a blistering 18.6708 lap.

Full results and lap times are available on the left hand side of the home page.

