

Brit Set For Bathurst 1000 Debut With Nissan Motorsport

Written by Jason (Neutral)
Tuesday, 27 May 2014 21:02



The NISMO Global Driver Exchange program will again involve V8 Supercars in 2014, with British GT driver Alex Buncombe confirmed as Todd Kelly's co-driver in the #7 Jack Daniel's Nissan Altima for this year's V8 Supercars Championship endurance events.

Buncombe, 32, sampled Kelly's Altima in testing at Sydney Motorsport Park in February, impressing the Nissan Motorsport team by adapting quickly to the unique cars.

That test, as well as Buncombe's impressive start to the 2014 Blancpain Endurance Series, has seen him given the nod to compete with Kelly at the Sandown 500, Bathurst 1000 and Gold Coast 600 in September and October.

The drive will be Buncombe's second competitive race in Australia this year, having competed in the Nissan GT-R NISMO GT3 in the Bathurst 12 Hour in February, where he showed impressive pace around the daunting Mount Panorama circuit.

Buncombe's co-driver role is a continuation of the NISMO Global Driver Exchange program that opens race car doors all over the world for the company's roster of racing drivers.

The NISMO Athlete is an integral part of the Nissan racing family, racing as the professional driver and team-mate to graduates from the Nissan PlayStation® GT Academy. Last weekend, Buncombe anchored the #80 Nissan GT-R NISMO GT3 to victory in the Pro/Am class of the Blancpain Endurance Series race at Silverstone.

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Buncombe is also a popular driver on the video sharing platform YouTube as a result of his amazing first lap overtaking efforts both in 2012 in the British GT Championship at Donington and again this year in the Blancpain Endurance Series at Monza, which collectively have over half a million views.

Buncombe's confirmation as Todd Kelly's co-driver finalises Nissan Motorsport's 2014 endurance driver line-up. As previously announced, Rick Kelly will pair with David Russell in the #15 Jack Daniel's Nissan Altima, James Moffat retains Taz Douglas in the #360 Norton Nissan, while Dean Fiore joins the team for the first time, pairing with #36 Norton Nissan driver Michael Caruso.

The Sandown 500 (September 12-14) will kick off the season of endurance, followed by the world-famous Bathurst 1000 (October 9-12) and the Gold Coast 600 on the streets of Surfers Paradise (October 24-26).

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