



**Sunday Times**  
**Sunday 24/4/2011**  
Page: 79  
Section: Sport  
Region: Perth Circulation: 293,244  
Type: Capital City Daily  
Size: 276.91 sq.cms.  
Frequency: -----S

Brief: FAIRDINKUM

# Home track revs up V8 star



**Glen Foreman**

A BIT of pit-lane push and shove in his last outing will not slow Karl Reindler as the V8 Supercars series brings the West Australian to his home track at Barbagallo Raceway this week.

Reindler, the 2005 Cleo Bachelor of the Year, will take his place in the series' fourth event, the Trading Post Perth Challenge, from Friday to Sunday after a controversial final race of the Hamilton circuit last weekend.

The Fair Dinkum Sheds driver made contact with the back of James Moffat's Jim Beam Racing Falcon at turn six, resulting in an unhappy rival after Moffat turned into a wall.

"It was purely unintentional, when you're caught up in the moment it happens and I've been the victim of my fair share," Reindler, 26, said.

"James Moffat, he's a pretty emotional kind of guy and he got pretty upset and approached me afterwards and was yelling and threatening me and stuff, and basically created a really big scene.

"It's a bit unfortunate, he pushed

me in the pit lane, but I just shrugged it off. My attitude is that it's water off a duck's back and I'm not really phased by it.

"I've never been one for holding grudges because it never got me anywhere and I'll just focus on the job at hand."

Reindler, a proud Perth boy, has so-far resisted overtures from his team to move east, remaining one of only two WA-based West Australians in the field – along with Triple F's Dean Fior. This week's Barbagallo stage will mark Reindler's maiden V8s race in front of his home crowd.

"It's really tough doing it from the West, we are really isolated, we're racing every fortnight from pretty much February through until December, so I rake up some frequent flyer points," Reindler said.

"But I grew up in Perth, I love it here, and I find it difficult to contemplate a move over east, although it would make life easier, that's for sure.

"More than anything, I've got family and friends here who've

never even seen me race.

"To come to the track that I grew up with and the track that my dad used to race on, is pretty special."

Reindler is currently competing in only his second V8 Supercar series after making a later-than-usual shift from open-wheel racing, which led him to England after he won the Australian Formula 3 Championships in 2004.

But the staggering costs associated with open-wheel soon spurred a move back to Australia and Reindler has not looked back.

"To make that final step to Formula 1 was going to take more than talent, more than being marketable and presentable, more than even knowing the right people – you had to basically bring a bucket-load of money, I'm talking five-to-10 million dollars worth," Reindler said.

"To justify that money, it just wasn't worth it... so I looked at my options and thought the pinnacle of racing in Australia being the V8 Supercars, that was a good goal to aim for."



## Joseph Sapienza took a close up look at Barbagallo Raceway the venue for Sunday's Trading Post Perth Challenge as a passenger in a Porsche racing car steered by WA's V8 Supercars driver Karl Reindler

"WE'LL be going 100 per cent flat-out," Karl Reindler told another passenger.

Flat-out in Karl's Porsche GT3 Cup Car, with its Boxer 6 3.6-litre 400 horsepower engine means this green, expensive piece of German machinery will complete a lap of the circuit in about one minute – two seconds slower than a V8 Supercar.

Karl slid on his helmet and hopped in the car for a "quick warm-up to make sure everything's running sweet".

Within seconds he sped out of pit lane and the car briskly climbed up the other side of the circuit.

Minutes pass. Then it's showtime.

Karl's pit crew call me over. I slot on my helmet and am gradually buckled in safe and sound by one of his staff. Karl

assures me once again that I'll be fine, and after a quick thumbs-up, we blast out of the pit lane.

Surely this is what a rocket must feel like. The car purrs down the bottom edge of the straight, braking suddenly to rush around the first bend. I'm struggling to hold on to my hand-held video camera that would capture my every emotion.

Strapped into my seat I didn't feel panic, with the only pain coming from when Karl hit the brake and the seatbelt buckle pressed into my groin. While the sharp turns weren't exactly enjoyable for that reason, Karl's talent in the driver's seat was impressive.

It was just another day out for him. When I turned the camera towards him he would respond by flashing a thumbs-

up. No need for two hands on the wheel when travelling at blistering pace.

I'd never experienced anything like this. The immense speed caused several rushes of blood to the head, which seemed like they would crack my helmet.

Almost instantly, we were finished ... like nothing had happened.

"How was it?" Karl asked.

I think I rattled off about 22 different superlatives, as he sat politely patient.

I slowly hauled my frame through the modified door, head still in a spin – which would not let up for the next couple of hours – and feeling exhausted and drained. Only three laps and I felt like I had run a marathon.

As I left, Karl told me the Porsche hit a top speed of

about 230kmh down the main straight. It sounded pretty accurate as I recalled reaching the end of the straight from the grid in the solitary blink of an eye.

It takes a lot out of you and I had nothing but admiration for the supreme fitness of V8 Supercar drivers.

The exercise regime for these drivers must be punishing if they are to cope with the physical and mental toll of an epic race like Bathurst – not three casual laps.

Fans can meet Karl and the entire V8 Supercar field in Forrest Place this Thursday from 11.30am to 1.30pm, with the V8 Supercar Trading Post Perth Challenge to run from Friday to Sunday at Barbagallo Raceway.



**Reporter Joseph Sapienza takes the ride of his life, strapping into the passenger seat of a Porsche 911 GT3**  
Watch It on [perthnow.com.au](http://perthnow.com.au)

