



Home tarmac no advantage to Karl



The term “home round” can have different meanings.

For Karl Reindler, this weekend’s V8 Supercars will be his home round — because he lives in Perth.

However, after years of racing overseas and interstate, Reindler will actually be on the back foot when it comes to racing a V8 Supercar in WA, simply because in the scheme of his young career, he’s done very little racing at home.

“I was lucky enough several weekends ago to race a Porsche at Barbagallo Raceway, because it had been a couple of years since I’d raced there,” he said.

“Everyone talks about it being my home race but, to be fair, I’ve done more laps at Winton and Queensland Raceway than I ever have at Barbagallo Raceway.

“I did a few races in a Formula Vee there, and then just drabs and drabs since then. I know the circuit well but I’ve never been there in a V8 Supercar.”

Still, Reindler is excited to finally get his chance to race in front of his friends, family, and

local supporters, particularly after Perth missed out on a race in 2010, Reindler’s rookie year as a V8 Supercar driver.

“To be in front of a home crowd, that’s a big deal,” he said. “I’ve got a lot of local sponsors, plus Eventscorp have had myself and Dean Fiore working really hard the last few weeks, which is great; it’s good for us to get that level of exposure. We really have to milk it when we can.

“It’s important. We’ll have a lot of people at the round.

“Last year, it was a real pain not having a local round, because trying to get Perth-based sponsors to rounds interstate is really difficult. Now, they can make a trip out to Wanneroo at whatever point over the weekend that suits them.”

As for dealing with the pressure of competing on home soil, Reindler is confident it won’t be an issue.

“There is an element of pressure but I think that I put more pressure on myself more than anyone else; more than the team, more than my family, more than the sponsors,” he said.

“So more than anything I’m just excited about racing at my home round. All my mates and friends and family will come out, so it will be busy but a lot of fun.”

But while Reindler is prepared to take on the country’s best drivers at Barbagallo Raceway, he is not getting carried away with unrealistic expectations in the Brad Jones Racing VE Commodore.

“We always work for a good result but being the local round, it will be nice to get a good result,” he said.

“It’s quite a slippery surface at Barbagallo Raceway, and traditionally we’ve struggled on the lower-grip surfaces, like Bahrain.

“But the engineering path that we’re on at the moment should work quite well for the Perth round.”

Reindler is excited to finally get his chance to race in front of his friends.



Challenge: Karl Reindler says Barbagallo Raceway is quite slippery, a condition he has found tricky. Picture: EDGE Photographics