

OFFSHORE RACING HITS MOOLOOLABA

The stage is set for a powerful offshore racing display as the Australian Offshore Powerboat Series gears up for round five, the Mooloolaba Classic.

Tomorrow will be an all out assault with many teams needing to better their standings in the competition in order to make a final challenge for their class titles on the Gold Coast next weekend.

Impressive crowds have turned out at the first four rounds of this year's series, and a huge crowd is expected to line the shores tomorrow, as the racers take to the waters at noon to put on a show for the local Sunshine Coast residents.

Action-a-plenty is expected tomorrow, these offshore race boats are capable of speeds exceeding 200km/h, and the unpredictable ocean conditions have played a big part in race results so far this year.

Acme Racing are doing their best to have their boat ready to race tomorrow, after flipping at 150km/h in Newcastle during round three.

A return to action tomorrow would see a world class field of five Class One entries, all hoping to beat the *Simrad* team to the line.

Luke Durman and Ross Willaton have taken line honours at three out of a four possible times this year, and hold a 350 point advantage over second placed *Maritimo*.

Defending class champions *Red Bellies* and *Hogs Breath* will take some beating tomorrow as will National A Class entry *Advantage Marine*.

Hogs Breath and *Advantage Marine* have had a strangle hold on their respective classes this year, each notching up four wins in a row at the opening four rounds.

Defending Class Three- six litre champions *Red Bellies* had a slower start to the year but have come good in rounds three and four to head their class going into round five.

Conditions are expected to remain perfect for racing tomorrow, with race start set at midday.

Testing and practice will commence at 3:30pm today, and boats will be launched from the Mooloolaba Yacht Club, A.V.C.G car park.

The Mooloolaba Classic will begin at midday tomorrow, with best spectator points at the "loo with a view" on the beach at Mooloolaba Esplanade, or the headland on Alexandra Parade.

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