

SPORT MOTOR RACING

GLOVES COME OFF IN BITTER RIVALRY

F1 drama on cards

FORMULA One star Mark Webber believes the bitterness between former teammates Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso could lead to on-track clashes this season.

Alonso departed McLaren at the end of last year to return to Renault, with whom he won two world championships.

He and Hamilton, a rookie with the pacesetter team in 2007, endured a tense and sour relationship while McLaren was fractured by claims of industrial espionage.

Alonso believed he was not treated with respect as a world champion by the team, which he considered gave Hamilton favoured treatment as the Briton rose to become the sport's shiniest star in just one season.

The two fought each other for the title but so intense was their battle they lost points in the process, allowing Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen to steal the championship.

Webber, a close friend of Alonso, has predicted that the icy atmosphere inside the team's pits could heat up once the pair rub wheels on the track, beginning at this weekend's Australian Grand Prix.

"It could actually get nastier in terms of the battle on the track because the gloves are off," Webber told the BBC.

"Fernando can take the fight to Lewis — there is a bit of friction



Wants respect: Fernando Alonso will be out to find his winning touch at Renault.

there. It could be fascinating." Alonso has conceded his Renault will struggle for podiums this season but there is no doubt that he and Hamilton will be duelling for position.

But Renault has a long term view of becoming a competitive force again, eyeing 2009 as the year to target wins.

Webber said Alonso will patiently wait out this year as the car develops before launching an all-out assault on both McLaren and Hamilton next season.

"Fernando would love at the end of next year to have beaten both of them but he knows it's not possible in the first year," Webber said.

Meanwhile, Webber said his Red Bull team appears to have made good progress in solving their wretched reliability problems last year and sees it dicing with a number of teams behind the pacesetters.

—AAP, Melbourne



Young hot shot: McLaren young gun Lewis Hamilton will have his talents and his temper tested in what many expect will be a fierce rivalry with his former teammate.



On the pace: Young racer Dylan Psiuk will be out to keep his good form on his home track. Picture: CHRIS SCOTT

Karters look to carry pace home

Tyron Butson

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CAIRNS Kart Racing Club members are ready and raring to go for the start of the season tomorrow after a successful meet in Townsville last week.

Fourteen-year-old racer Dylan Psiuk will be eager for a strong start after receiving the Junior Encouragement award in Townsville for his efforts.

"I'm hoping for a great season with some really good racing," he said.

"I'd be really keen to keep on working on my racing and to keep on improving throughout the season."

Psiuk, who competes in the Junior National Light division, will be one of about 20 young racers who will be competing this weekend.

He racked up a series of good results in races last season and has already attracted plenty of attention for a racer who started in the sport only a year ago.

Psiuk has also been selected to compete over the Easter weekend at the prestigious Two Track event in both Rockhampton and Gladstone.

The national event attracts some of the top kart racers from across Queensland, with competitors racing for points over two days in both towns.

Racing in Cairns had been delayed for several weeks after heavy rain and flooding made it impossible to get on the track.

But Cairns organisers said they were keen to kick the season off at the Thompson Rd, Edmonton track at 3pm on Saturday.

The day/night meet is expected to attract dozens of racers from across the region.

Sportsbets of the week

RUGBY LEAGUE					RUGBY LEAGUE					RUGBY UNION					OTHER FIXED PRICE BETTING																			
ROUND 1					GOLD COAST V NORTH QUEENSLAND					SUPER 14 ROUND 5																								
HEAD TO HEAD (Inc ET)	MARGIN (@ 80 mins)		DRAW		1ST SCORE (Inc ET)					HEAD TO HEAD	MARGIN (@ 80 mins)		DRAW																					
	1-12pts	13+pts								1-12pts	13+pts																							
South Sydney	\$2.00	\$3.40	\$4.40		Gold Coast Try	\$2.20				Chiefs	\$1.45	\$2.85	\$2.80	\$29.00	AFL - Premiership Winner, Grand Final Quinella, Wooden Spoon, Top Victorian Team, Top NON Victorian Team																			
Sydney Roosters	\$1.80	\$3.20	\$3.75	\$23.00	North Queensland Try	\$2.30				Stormers	\$2.65	\$3.80	\$6.50		Basketball - NBA																			
Gold Coast	\$1.90	\$3.20	\$4.20		Gold Coast Penalty Goal	\$8.00				Brumbies	\$2.00	\$3.10	\$5.00	\$26.00	Cricket - Pura Cup Winner & Ford Ranger Cup Winner																			
Nth Queensland	\$1.90	\$3.20	\$4.20	\$23.00	North Queensland Penalty Goal	\$8.00				Hurricanes	\$1.80	\$2.90	\$4.00		Golf - USPGA Tour, European Tour, WGC Tour & LPGA Tour																			
					Either Team Field Goal	\$51.00				Blues	\$1.16	\$2.95	\$1.80	\$41.00	Ice Hockey - Stanley Cup Winner																			
					No Points Scored	\$501.00				Western Force	\$4.75	\$5.75	\$15.00		Rugby League - Premiership Winner, Premiership Quinella, Wooden Spoon, Top NSW Team (R1-26) & Top NON NSW Team (R1-26)																			
Parramatta	\$1.50	\$3.10	\$2.75	\$26.00	HALF TIME / FULL TIME DOUBLE (@ 80 mins)					Reds	\$2.50	\$3.70	\$6.50	\$29.00	Soccer - European League Winners, Euro 2008 Winner, EFL & Champions League Winners																			
Bulldoggs	\$2.50	\$4.00	\$6.00		Gold Coast / Gold Coast	\$2.50				Bulls	\$1.50	\$2.85	\$2.80		Tennis - ATP Tour & WTA Tour																			
Manly	\$1.36	\$3.10	\$2.25	\$29.00	North Queensland / North Queensland	\$2.90				Lions	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$15.00	\$41.00	Thoroughbred Racing - selected races Doomben, Rosehill, Flemington, Cheltenham & Ascot																			
Cronulla	\$3.00	\$4.50	\$8.00		North Queensland / Gold Coast	\$6.50				Sharks	\$1.15	\$2.95	\$1.78																					
Newcastle	\$1.55	\$3.10	\$2.90	\$26.00	Gold Coast / North Queensland	\$7.00				Prices subject to change. For current betting prices see www.TABonline.com.au. Betting is available at your local TAB, call 13 19 35 or log onto www.TABonline.com.au																								
Canberra	\$2.35	\$3.85	\$5.50	\$26.00	Draw / Gold Coast	\$19.00				<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="5">LINE BET (Inc ET)</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Gold Coast -2.5</td> <td>\$2.10</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Queensland +2.5</td> <td>\$1.70</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>										LINE BET (Inc ET)					Gold Coast -2.5	\$2.10				North Queensland +2.5	\$1.70			
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Penrith	\$3.00	\$4.50	\$8.00		Gold Coast / Draw	\$51.00																												
West's Tigers	\$2.10	\$3.50	\$4.75	\$23.00	North Queensland / Draw	\$51.00																												
St George Ill	\$1.70	\$3.10	\$3.50		Draw / Draw	\$101.00																												
Melbourne	\$1.25	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$29.00																														
Warriors	\$3.75	\$5.25	\$11.00																															

Gamble responsibly

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