

## Boettcher Crowned

By Jay Buchan Courtesy Queensland Times [www.qt.com.au](http://www.qt.com.au)

Lessons learnt from last year's disappointment have delivered Josh Boettcher a national drifting title. Boettcher has gone one better than last season, taking the title by finishing second in the final round of the Australian Drift Pro Tour at Parklands on the Gold Coast last weekend.



Boettcher went into the final round needing just to finish better than eighth to secure the title. He did that, finishing second behind Bob Whyte and ahead of nearest rival Eugene Arendsen, who was third at Parklands.

“Once I got in the top four, I knew I’d won it but still wanted to win the day,” the 26-year-old Boettcher said. “But (Whyte) was a bit better than me on the day.” Taking the title was immensely satisfying for Boettcher after he finished runner-up last year.

He puts his improvement down to last year’s experience, and a more hands-on approach with his new car and no holding back on the track. “To do it properly and go all the way was very pleasing,” he said. “Last year’s experience was a big help. The battles definitely made a difference. “This year I was probably more aggressive driving. “I was going for it every time instead of being happy where I was. “I had a different car this year and the set-up I was involved in myself.

“I was able to help out and get the car going really well.” His Nissan S15 (otherwise known as a 200SX) served him well but Boettcher is already planning a new car to defend his title next season. That is where his \$5000 winner’s cheque is headed. “I’ll keep pushing forward and taking opportunities to go further,” he said.

Next year’s series is going to be bigger and better, with two national pools, one featuring NSW and Queensland events and the other Victoria and South Australia events. When their seasons finish, the pick of the drivers will meet to decide the national champion. Boettcher began his love affair with motor sports in go-karts, before seeing videos of Japanese drifting in about 2003.

"I love driving cars fast," he said. "Then I noticed (drifting) events on locally so I decided to enter a few and took it off from there." While his passion for speed remains, the buzz he gets from sliding around a corner flat out, side by side with an opponent, is an even greater rush. "Round one next season is in February," he said. "We'll develop the new car between now and then and get ready for bigger and better things."