

F1 student's record start

by Neale Graham

Tamworth whizz-kid Scott Mansell will set a new record when he becomes the youngest British racing driver ever to race a Formula One car.

The 17-year-old student will be behind the wheel of a 770bhp Benetton in the EuroBOSS Championship at Donington Park this weekend.

Driven by flamboyant French-Sicilian Jean Alesi during the 1997 F1 season, the Renault-powered machine is at least 250bhp more powerful than anything Mansell has piloted before.

Undaunted, he said: "This opportunity came at short notice and I jumped at the chance - who wouldn't?"

"I was able to test in the car last week and I was surprised by just how comfortable it felt.

"The power is awesome and it took some getting used to before I was at race pace.

"Donington is my local circuit and in Sunday's Zig Zag Super Prix I'll have lots of support and will be determined to perform well as a thank you to all



■ **Feel the power ... teenager Scott Mansell at the wheel of the Benetton he will race at Donington Park this weekend**

those who have backed my racing career."

Financial constraints halted Mansell's EuroBOSS competition last year, when he was the youngest driver in the series' history.

An open paddock will allow the pub-

lic to mix with an international field and see some magnificent machines close-up.

Tickets (£10/accompanied under-16s free) are available on the day and provide admission to the paddock and grandstands.