



NCRC Micro Racing Preview Winter 2006

With an exciting Fall season behind us the Pro recruitment was heavy.

Ferrari wasted no time replacing Reggie Barnes with Jack Thompson. Thompson already had a Ferrari contract 6 weeks before the end of the last series! Santamarina and Morrison were happy to hear that he was signed and Thompson was equally pleased with the keys to Reggie's old insanely quick Enzo.

As the 2006 roster frenzy began Stephenson saw the writing on the wall and insisted that Yutaka be brought on board and the team did so before anyone else had the chance. "We couldn't let him go to anyone else. The man has an immense raw talent that we saw the very first time he took to the track. After about 3 weeks into last season it was already decided that we would try to bring him over, it was just a matter of money and time." Commented team leader Stephenson on Yutaka's recruitment.

Ferrari is by far now the New York Yankees of NCRC Micro Racing. With championship titles lining the walls and strong support drivers that could bring Ferrari back to the top of the constructor's cup. "We expected them to pick up Thompson, so we responded by signing Yutaka. Clearly they are tired of losing the constructor's cup to McLaren, and they now have the squad to win it but I am confident that Yutaka will insure our victory again in the Winter." Said rival Russ Hester

Nismo was left with a gapping hole when Yutaka left and they searched far and wide to find a suitable replacement. "We finally settled on a promising rookie by the name of Sean Kim." Said team leader Frank Adams. When asked about his absence last series he simply replied "we had our reasons not to race." "I'll be back this series and more active in developing Sean, Nismo has always had a strong program and we can't loose our momentum."

At least Nismo retained one driver. Acura was left devastated. Thompson went to Ferrari but in a surprise move Mike Schaub turned pro as a freelance driver. "I saved up my winnings and got a new Ford GT40." He said with a huge grin. "I have my own team and enough funds leftover to stay competitive for the rest of the season. I've been waiting for this chance and with Yutaka leaving I figured it would be a good choice to move on myself." With two cars and no driver's Acura was just looking for some warm bodies and they thankfully found some with forte. Bill Perry and Mohammad Munir both came from the same SCCA GT2 team so they already have the chemistry needed to sustain a strong effort in the upcoming months. Mohammad's quiet demeanor is the ying to Bill's yang of outgoing, have a good time attitude. "Having Bill on the circuit will bring a breath of fresh air to the pits." Said Nismo's Frank Adams. "In fact I remember one year when he snuck into my pit back in the day and tied some fuzzy dice to one of my mirrors the night before a race. When I saw them the next morning I knew who the culprit was. Now that he's hanging around again we should expect some fun." They may have the spirit but do they have the speed?

By the time the dust settled no one was left for Toyota or Lamborghini to pick up, so their rosters remain unchanged for the upcoming winter series. "No worries. We look at this year as a rebuilding year for our team. We still have room for improvement and steering clear of all the red tape with new drivers will allow us to focus." Bill Lucas mentioned off-handedly.

So the Pros get a little stronger. And the Rookies fill the big shoes quick enough. Now the field has grown to more than 14 with 10 of them being Pros.

“The new guys are good so I am sure they will mix things up and keep us veterans honest.” Said one of the Ferrari pit crew.

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