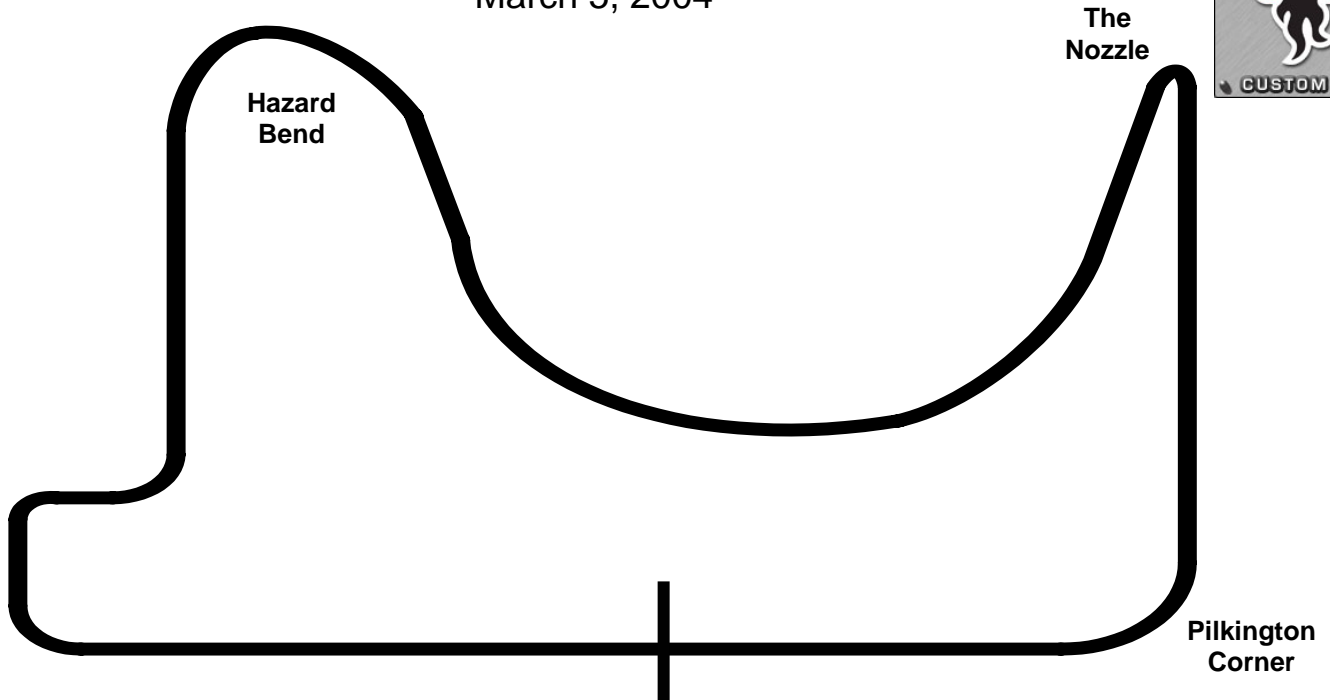




BFC XMODS Racing Series Coursa del Lombardo

March 5, 2004



Starting Grid:

Pole – Hester, 2 – Schloer, 3 – Stephenson, 4 – Romack, 5 – Morrison, 6 – Santamarina, 7 – Berning

Infamous Coursa Proves Difficult

Due to fuel problems points leader A. Santamarina was missing from qualification and was at the back of the pack on the grid. This didn't seem to phase the cool headed driver as he weaved his way through the dense traffic to keep R. Hester honest early in the race. The start was chaotic to say the least and after about 3 laps into the race, officials brought out the red flag. After the restart Santamarina was off to a good start but with only 5 laps into the race his engine overheated and blew a gasket. "Things were looking great, but the restart killed my engine. It broke my heart as I watched the temp gage rise. This course is great fun to race and for this to happen is disheartening." The Nissan driver said. He limped back to the pits, his crew replaced the offending part but the talented Cuban was unable to bridge the 10 lap gap to R. Hester.

Meanwhile Team Toyota had K. Morrison keeping clean lines and consistent lap times to secure a spot on the podium, but the real shocker came from K. Berning. Berning had taken a break from racing to find another sponsor and landed a great match up with the new team Vision/RaceFace Acura. The battle for third was where the story lies for this race. The Hondas fought it out with the third place spot being exchanged more than 8 times during the race. As the laps counted down, Schloer was caught behind traffic and Berning gained some time, but Schloer didn't get to where he is at in the standings by letting a little traffic get in the way. With two laps to go Schloer was all over Berning like a cheap suit but Berning was able to edge out the Honda driver by a car length at the line.

The privateers cannot go unmentioned. A. Romack finally regained his confidence and posted a respectable qualifying time and race finish. Then there was the unveiling of the warthog. G. Stephenson's car, nay; work of art, had everyone talking. Point leaders Hester and Santamarina had the pleasure of test driving it during practice and had nothing but good things to say about the car. Smooth, dialed in, and sweet were the adjectives de jour. The privateers certainly gave off an aura that had the other racers worried that they would really have to work to get a spot on the podium at this course.

Next week will unlikely be much different with well aged drivers and hopped up cars. Although we are seeing more mechanical failures late in the season, the standings and stories remain unchanged and if anyone wants to move up they need to bring it hard in the three remaining races.

Results:

1 – Hester, 2 – Morrison, 3 – Berning, 4 – Schloer, 5 – Romack, 6 – Stephenson, 7 – Santamarina

Organizer Notes:

Due to scheduling conflicts next race will be on Thursday the 12th with qualifying the day before. TT is on March 18th and the final race is on March 23rd. Driver's banquet will be during lunch on April 9th (food, prizes, awards, and video summary)