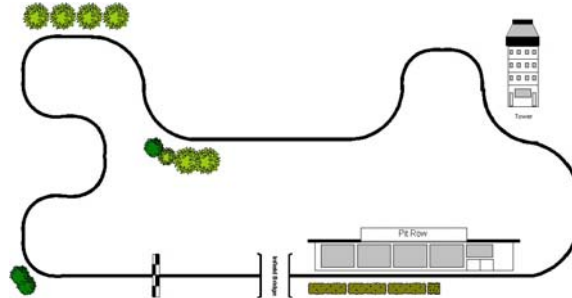




NCRC Micro Racing Series Long Reach Raceway December 16, 2005



Handicapped, Sicilian Style

With the absence of both his teammates the pressure was on Hester to beat Santamarina. Earlier that week the rumors were flying around the pit as Ferrari's director told the crew to put Santamarina's motor into Morrison's car. This was in response to some of Morrison's comments earlier in the season that he wasn't receiving equal support to that of his teammate. Enzo made it happen and Santamarina suffered a little. His car was still competitive but the difference between Santamarina and Hester has always been razor thin and this small handicap was enough to give Hester the open door. "It was like getting cut off at the knees." Said the primadonna. "My car is always fast but it just lacked that extra 10% that I am used to. The slower motor forced me to take more unnecessary chances in order to keep pace with Russ; it is not the way I race." With that said I am sure Ferrari will be making some concessions for both drivers, in fact just before print we found out that there are two extra motors on order. It's always good to have a back up.

With the strong motor sitting behind him Morrison had the confidence of a school boy and was really pushing the pace in the final race. Unfortunately he flatted half way through the race and had to pull in to the pits to replace the left front tire but his monster of an engine allowed him to regain 3rd place before the checkered flag.

Race day didn't start out pretty. Both Lambo drivers found themselves in a head to head race in the B Main for the final spot on the A Main grid. The two drivers are so closely matched that you will have to look at the race data to get a true sense of how close this race was. With a bad twist of luck Lucas had a flat late in the race and could not recover, allowing Dutton to advance. "This season has been abysmal. Dutton is coming in to form late, and I have had the worst luck I have ever seen in the three years of racing this championship." Said Lucas.

What a fantastic Rookie race. Yutaka replaced his rear differential after qualifying yesterday and it made a world of difference with his speed. His top speed was comparable to that of the Pros! Someone may have to look underneath that bonnet to make sure he isn't running a twin turbo. He and Schaub were neck and neck for most of the race and Thompson was left to sweep up the rear. If Thompson is running at the back of the pack you know that the pace is fast!

In response to Nismo's pit activity Acura was busy as well. Schaub finally got his differential rebuilt and it came to no shock that it ran quieter and smoother. His diff was better but still not enough to catch the perfect lines of "The Iceman". Yutaka ran away with the race.

Now is the time when the Pro teams are courting the up-and-coming Rookies. Santamarina was seen shoulder to shoulder with Thompson in the pits while Yutaka and Hester were laughing it up over at McLaren. Yutaka even took a spin in Hester's car and posted some incredible lap times. The young phenom from Japan was only half a second off the leading Pro pace so I think McLaren will be doing some pencil sharpening to get this kid a contract before he gets snatched up by Lamborghini.

Santamarina has the points all but sewn up with Hester in second and Stephenson in third. "I found my groove too late. With the new tracks I had to alter my driving style so it took me some time to adapt. Next season should be much better." Said Hester.

Romack and Morrison are fighting for fourth. With Romack missing this week he has to make sure he finishes one spot ahead of Morrison on December 30th to take it to a tie break.

The Rookie category is too close to call and will come down to the final race. Pole position points will make or break Thompson's bid and unfortunately Yutaka's late season charge will come to an end too soon. "Hopefully he will be able to maintain his momentum and take next season, but the guys at Acura will not make it easy." Said team lead Frank Adams.

Results:

Pro: 1 – Hester, 2 – Santamarina, 3 – Morrison, 5 – Dutton, 6 – Lucas

Rookie: 1 – Yutaka, 2 – Schaub, 3 – Thompson

Notes from The Organizer:

No race next week (Dec. 23rd). Enjoy your holiday and we will see you all back on the 30th for the final race of the season.

National Ranking:

If you are interested let either Russ or Aland know and they will give you the details.