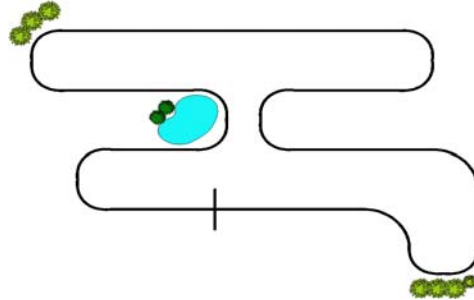




NCRC Micro Racing Series North Corner Road Course October 27, 2005



Where are FEMA when you need them?

There was no major drama in the qualifying heats with Thompson getting pole position for the Rookies and Santamarina sitting in the first spot for the pros. Although, neither of the two favorites had an easy time, fending off consistent threats from Schaub and Hester respectively. The action was all reserved for the finals.

In a devastating decision, Thompson changed his tire setup and could not make it around the track with a single clean lap. "We made a quick decision and paid for it. The car had unbelievable under-steer and I just couldn't cope. We learned this week for sure." Acura's Pit Chief Ronaldo Arno said.

With Thompson fighting his own car, Schaub and Yutaka ran away with the race. In what will be considered an epic battle the two Rookie's exchanged the lead more times than a Swiss bank changes currency. Schaub's consistent driving held off the hard charging Yutaka for his first win of his career. The excited German was not stingy in sharing his champagne with his rival Yutaka as they both reveled. "Unbelievable! How can that guy win? Have you heard his gearbox?" Commenting one spectator on the fact that Schaub's NSX still has drivetrain issues. It's still early in the season, but with this win Schaub is sitting on the top of the pile in points standings.

At first the McLaren team dominated the Pro race with Hester, Stephenson, and Romack all finishing the first lap in 1, 2 and 3. As the trio approached the struggling Lamborghini of Dutton they slowed enough for the Ferrari's to catch up. Santamarina passed the McLarens within the next two laps and teammate Morrison kept the heat on Romack. Hester and Stephenson would not let up and stayed with the yellow blur until he clipped the barrier on the back straight. From that point on Santamarina couldn't make up the ground and was slowing lap by lap, but still managed to hold on (barely) to 3rd place. "Poor fuel selection spelled disaster for me and left me crawling along for the last half of the race." Stated the Ferrari driver.

The only bright side to this week's race was Ferrari driver Ken Morrison's 4th place finish. Morrison has always been a contender, and he will be one to watch for if he can improve his motor output. Even with his joyful finish, Morrison had a hint of irritation when he spoke with us. "The dynamometer doesn't lie. I'm slow, but Ferrari is focusing more on Santamarina and leaving my crew up to its own devices. I was better off when I raced with Toyota."

Another disappointing week was handed to Team Lambo. With only Dutton's Diablo on the grid, Lamborghini was desperate for constructor's cup points. Dutton competed well, but still has obvious challenges with tire selection. Catching up with his teammate during the race we received more insight. "Bridgestone just can't get the compound correct for this year. Practice hasn't helped either of us and we have to hold back to stay in control. But when we do figure it out I hope to see one of us on the podium." Lucas said.

Results:

Pro: 1 – R. Hester, 2 – G. Stephenson, 3 – A. Santamarina, 4 – K. Morrison**, 5 – A. Romack**, 6 – T. Dutton
Rookie: 1 – M. Schaub, 2 – Yutaka, 3 – J. Thompson

**McLaren has lodged a protest stating that due to a technicality Romack should be awarded 4th place.