

Scott Schulte Claims Tight Victory in Hawaiian Road Race

By John Dillon

Scott Schulte and Jack Roose presented exciting racing this past Saturday at Hawaii Raceway Park. Rookie driver Schulte, service manager for the Auto Fitness Center in Honolulu, combined his engine building skills with superb driving to claim the Radial Sedan victory by less than a car length over Roose at the checkered flag. Sole GT-3 entrant in this race group Bill Gibson blew his motor but nonetheless took home a class victory.

Schulte started his Porsche 911 from the pole position but discovered himself in a three-way battle with Roose and Art Sonen entering Turn 1. Sonen, campaigning a Datsun 240Z sponsored by Art's Electronics, passed Roose in Turn 2 to begin a four lap battle with Schulte for the overall lead. After slipping by Schulte in the chicane on the fourth tour Sonen's engine overheated forcing his premature retirement. Said Sonen, "I'm sorry I had to pull out of that one, it was a blast!"

Schulte opened up a 1.1 second lead over Roose's Porsche 944 by lap 7, but on the last lap Roose used the turn called "The Off Camber" to get around Schulte. As both cars exited "The Sweeper" onto the front straight, Schulte managed to overtake Roose. Schulte admits "That was a horsepower victory, but I'll take it anyway." He adds, "Thank God Sonen broke!"

Roose, a seasoned veteran originally from the San Francisco Region, is also sponsored by the Auto Fitness Center. He concedes "I was beaten by my own mechanic, but he was almost beat by a car he sponsors." He concluded with "That was more fun than the races I've won!"

Journalistic etiquette dictates the writer tell the reader who won the Sport Racer race (Mike Fox) in the first sentence. We'll get to that in a moment. When you try to put three Spec Racers into one spot you're bound to get a bit of excitement. John Shrum and Ed Kemper, the flaggers at Turn 1, saw plenty of action at the start of this race. Pole-sitter Kaoru Nakabayashi (associated with the Hawaii International Racing School) felt the pressure as she tried to take the lead into the first turn. She

and Ted Winning tapped without damage, both thus yielding the point to Mike Fox. On the next lap she locked up her brakes in the same spot, causing her to spin and hit the fence. Kaoru, a Japanese driver, was being video taped by a sports program "back home" and had to explain her finish to the camera. "I changed the brake ballast right before the race and it bit me," she sighed. "At least I didn't hit anybody." Even though the nose of her car was damaged, she circulated around the track for ten laps before retiring, thus securing a sixth place finish.

In formula car action, Formula Mirage cars driven by Tom Bryant and Gary Tamura finished 1-2 in the overall order after a spirited challenge around the course. Tamura traded the lead for several laps with Bryant (an instructor for the Hawaii International Racing School) but claimed "flat spotting my tires on the fifth lap" cost him the win. Even with Tamura's square tires, it took Bryant 12 laps to secure the front position for good. He accomplished the task with a late braking pass into Turn 1.

In the same race group, Bob Sato of Sato's Auto earned an uncontested victory in a Spec Ford by finishing third overall. Moses Miranda graduated from Spec Racers into open wheeled cars by renting a Club Ford for the day. On the race's first lap Miranda spun his car in the chicane. He worked his way back through the pack to claim the Club Ford victory over Steve Hirasuna and Todd Hunter, who took an unexpected pit stop for mechanical gremlins. Said Miranda, "This car reacts a lot faster than the Spec Racer. I had to quit drinking to save my reflexes!"

The SCCA Hawaii Region welcomes new members to their club. If you're interested in any aspect of racing, contact the Regional Executive M. G. Lewis at 672-8255, or the SCCA national office at (800) 255-5550. The region plans to run their next road racing event in May. Even without a race car, everyone is welcome to participate.