

Solo I-- From the Driver's Seat

By: Lindsey
Akamu

Sunday morning started on a bad note when I looked out the window and it was raining very hard. I wondered if we would be racing today. Since the only way to find out if we were going to race, was to go to the track, I got everything ready and left. For all the Solo I drivers, driving to the track on rainy days can be scary. Our street legal race tires are not made for wet weather, it can be treacherous. Fortunately, when I approached Ewa, the skies looked clear and the track was dry. "We're going to have a good day of racing"— Or so I thought.



Lindsey Akamu, Porsche 911 Carrera

Six months ago, I mounted Yokohama A032R tires onto my car and I was very happy with the improvement. In fact, at the last race, I turned a 1:03. Since I use these as my everyday tires, they were nearly worn-out. I thought I could get one more race on them before I replaced them. I was wrong. The tires

were so worn, that it was extremely slippery going through the turns. The rear end of the car kept coming around. I even spun coming out of the chicane. I haven't spun in two years, so this was a big surprise.

There were three other Solo I drivers at this meet. For the first time, after many promises, **Farid Herschend** and his Renault Turbo 2 showed up. Since I started the day by spinning after the chicane, Farid one upped me by doing several 360's in the same area. That Renault with the turbocharged four cylinder is a fast little square car.

Wesley Aihara was doing quite well in the practice sessions and we didn't hear any complaints. His CRX is supercharged and the car pulls out of the corners and down the straights real well. That wasn't the case by the end of the day.

Ron Mishima is always the guy to beat. He recently put on larger Comp T/A R1 tires, and modified his muffler for more performance. During the practice session, his steering wheel bushing broke in the middle of the chicane and his steering wheel started to shake all over the place.

Despite this problem, Ron managed to break into the 1:01's with a super run. Farid did well for his first time out, and did a 1:04.3. With my lousy worn tires, I could only manage a 1:04.8. Wesley suffered drivability problems and couldn't get the motor to rev up over 4000 rpm. He and everyone else plan to be at the next race in May to challenge each other once again.