



The Good, The Bad, and The Utterly Exhausted!

It took all 12 hours to decide the winner of Dromo One's inaugural overnight endurance event, but after a lengthy battle it was ultimately a team combined of top Dromo talent mixed with top pro talent that took the top step of the podium once all was said and done. In a race that featured 12 teams, five different race leaders, two red flags, and one ambulance, it was Team Racer X / Deans Ultra Plugs / BGB Motorsports composed of ALMS pilot Patrick Long, Grand Am Champ Craig Stanton, and Dromo notables Robin Deans, Diego Morales, Jon Kimbrell, and Efrain Olivares that were able to pull out the win in the final stint over one of the top U.S. indoor karting teams, BSH Racing out of Oregon.

Team BSH, anchored by standout driver Mike Smith and rounded out by indoor racing notables Lon Bromley, Steve Pepka, and Tony Hana, was the only four person team entered, meeting the bare minimum for number of drivers allowed per team for the event.

After strong qualifying runs by BSH Racing driver Mike Smith and Team All Stars' Ari Baquet, the Le Mans style start saw Team BSH Racing quickly take the race lead on the first lap of a very long night. It didn't take long for the weather to become a major factor in the out-

door section of the course layout, as turn eight quickly gave flashbacks of this past years F1 race at the Nurburgring. Karts began collecting as the first rain began to fall, and drivers quickly realized the only way to navigate the outdoor section was to tiptoe to stay out of trouble.

Taking advantage of mistakes by the lead drivers in the wet conditions, Team SBF's leadoff driver, Patrick Britain, was able to move to the race lead before disaster struck approximately 30 minutes into racing action. Making a move through lap traffic, Britain got nosed into an immovable wall and was then rear-ended at speed by a pack of karts that had been chasing him down and were unable to avoid him. Complaining of back pain, the race was red flagged and EMTs transported Britain to a nearby hospital as a precaution. He later returned unscathed to handle pit strategy for his team, however the restart saw Team SBF drop steadily back to the middle of the field, and an eventual fourth place finish. During the red flag, race officials decided to amend the track layout to a full indoor configuration as the weather was also becoming a safety concern, bringing all 12 teams into close quarter battle for the duration.

The second red flag of the night came at 4:00 am when a timing system failure halted racing action for approximately 45 minutes as race officials scrambled to get things restarted. When racing resumed at about 4:45 am, a three-way battle for the lead began developing. Team BSH Racing and Team Understeer had been several laps ahead of a struggling Team Racer X / Deans Ultra Plugs / BGB Motorsports until their ringer, ALMS Penske Porsche Driver Patrick Long, took the track. At the midway point, all three teams were separated by only three seconds as they battled lap traffic, as well as each other. Long was able to work his way through quickly, ending his 1.5 hour stint more than a full lap up on the field.

As the morning progressed, Team Understeer began to fade fast as bad luck with lap traffic saw them quickly fall out of contention for the win, leaving Team BSH Racing and Team Racer X / Deans Ultra Plugs / BGB Motorsports left to duke it out for the remaining three hours. Both teams swapped the lead several times with both team's top drivers entering the track for the decisive final 1.5 hour stint. BSH's Mike Smith, again running some of the quickest laps of the race, fell victim to lappers, as well as a set of fading brakes, while Patrick Long once again drove the wheels of his kart to bring home the victory and the first ever 12 Hours of Dromo Championship to Team Racer X / Deans Ultra Plugs / BGB Motorsports. Team BSH would settle for second in a very impressive showing, while Team Understeer managed to hang onto their third place podium position once all was said and done.

The All Star Pro Team composed talent from NASCAR to Drifting settled for a mid pack finish de-

Pat Long



Team Racer X/Deans Ultra Plugs/BGB Motorsports

spite strong runs from Renault F3000 Driver Colin Fleming, X Games Rally Gold Medalist Tanner Foust, and Two-Time Drift Champion Sam Hubinette. Grand Am driver Nathan Swartzbaugh and NASCAR's Boris Said also contributed solid 1.5 hour stints each for the All Stars. Although they weren't able to take home the hardware, their participation in the event made the Make-A-Wish Foundation the real winners, as the event was able to raise nearly \$15,000 to benefit children diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.

For more information on this event, or on Southern California's most competitive indoor karting facility, check out www.dromo1.com or call 714.744.4779.

**12 Hours of Dromo
Orange, California
February 4, 2008**

Pos	Team Name/Drivers
1	Team Racer X/Deans Ultra Plugs/BGB Motorsports D. Morales R. Deans P. Long C. Stanton J. Kimbrell E. Olivares
2	Team BSH Racing M. Smith S. Pepka L. Bromley T. Hana
3	Team Understeer B. Myers J. Schreiber T. Wilke T. Lewis G. Smith M. Calvin
4	Team SBF J. Velasco P. Britain C. Ng B. Tallichet L. Arrieta
5	Team Hubcapmike.com M. Collins J. Aldridge D. Kimbrell A. Downs D. Montgomery T. Martinez
6	Team Winners T. Sebastian M. Kai R. Moreno C. Carneiro S. Meadow
7	Team All Stars B. Said T. Foust C. Fleming S. Hubinette N. Swartzbaugh M. Dufault B. Reed A. Baquet
8	Team Fox M. Hurst J. Hurst T. Bell J. Dale C. Straiano B. Eldridge
9	Team AFM Industries Br. Stubbe Bo. Stubbe S. Bailor J. Hagroot
10	Team North-South Machinery J. Swartzbaugh P. Dunkel M. Cross J. Comment D. Swartzbaugh
11	Team Sunseeker Yachts J. Romero G. Simon M. Cutting A. Min S. Lehman A. Mohan
12	Team Disney G. Taylor D. Tesoro L. Fornasery D. Lamperts J. Servin K. Endo P. Dalton



Sleeping Ari

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