

BRILLE 350Z : SHOW SHIFTER TO BATTLE DRIFTER
REAL WORLD TUNERS

TPR





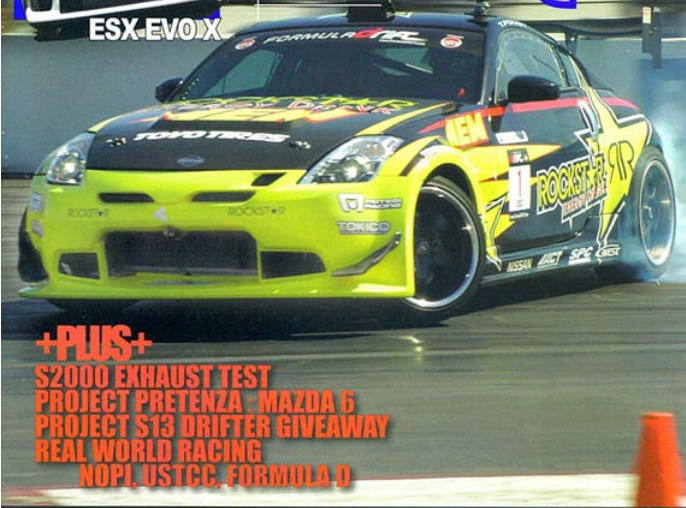
TUNER PERFORMANCE REPORTS
ALL STING NO BLING www.tprmag.com | Issue XXIII

INSIDE NISSAN
VQ35

32 pages
tuning range features
technical info
tuning goods

ESX-EVO X

+PLUS+
S2000 EXHAUST TEST
PROJECT PRETENZA : MAZDA 6
PROJECT S13 DRIFTER GIVEAWAY
REAL WORLD RACING
NOPI, USTCC, FORMULA D



ISSUE XXIII | Budget 2000 \$1.99 079
0 74470 03557 8

United States Touring Car Championship
Sponsored by Nitto
Thunderhill Raceway Park



Text by Ali Arsham
Photos by Ryan Cislodal and HeadOnPhotos

The Goodspot Racing Mitsubishi Evolution, driven by David Bongiovanni, took first place in the first United States Touring Car race of the 2008 season. Held at Thunderhill Raceway in Willows, CA, the inaugural race held much promise with good weather, excellent car count, and some fierce competition including past USCCC champions and Grand Am veterans.

The team arrived at the track with the car in top shape, though with little information about the new to the series Nitto NT-01 race rubber sized in 225/50-17 for all competitors. At an all up race weight of over 3350 lb., the Goodspot team had to scramble to find suspension settings that got the most from the tires, as the Evo was heavier than the next heaviest car by over 400 lb., and was running the AWD mandated 12.45 lb/hp, the lowest power to weight ratio of any car in the field.

Luckily, Robert Fuller of Rotsispec was able to supply critical suspension components and settings without any track testing opportunities, using his many years of experience to make great decisions on how to best manage these tires.

The qualifying session only lasted for two laps due to an on-track incident, and traffic only

United States Touring Car Championship
Thunderhill Raceway Park



A small mistake in turn nine sent the 2nd place Mini to 6th place in one turn . . .



088 • 1710



The Podium of the USSTC Season Opener at Willow Springs.

allowed Bongiovanni to qualify in fourth position. With three cars ahead of the start, using the great launch characteristics of the Evolution would be difficult.

When the green flag dropped the traffic kept all cars in their qualifying position through turn one as the pack settled into the single file line that would last the first few laps. A small mistake in turn nine sent the 2nd place Mini to sixth place in one turn, as the other drivers struggled to maintain position in line. After another two laps, the leading Dodge SRT-4 suddenly lost power on the main straight, instantly falling back to mid-pack and 8th place. With the Honda Civic in the lead, Bongiovanni settled into second place with the Chevrolet Cobalt SS, which ran the fastest lap of the race, filling the rearview mirror of the Evolution.

The first place Honda was fast enough to keep the Evolution behind it in second, but as the race wore on, the abilities of the AWD really began to shine. Eventually, the Honda pushed its tires beyond their abilities, and had a big spin coming out of turn eight. Bongiovanni was able to capitalize on the mistake and pushed through to take first place, with the

Chevrolet Cobalt in close tow. As the pack came back across the finish line, a full course yellow was shown due to an incident behind the lead pack. The yellow continued until the checker was shown, giving Goodsport Racing and David Bongiovanni the first win of the 2008 season.

Bongiovanni states "Goodsport Racing is very pleased to return to USSTC after a one year absence. The newly developed promotional opportunities and fantastic new series sponsors including Nitto Tire have made this the premier pro touring car series on the West Coast. Today's win is directly attributable to the fantastic efforts over many years by the Goodsport crew and our sponsors Robispec, Innovate Motorsports, and Evil Genius."

Goodsport Racing will return to Round two of the United States Touring Car Championship at Infineon Raceway on April 13, 2008 with Dave Bongiovanni behind the wheel once again. The hard work starts now, however, as the competition is fierce and the Goodsport crew will have to continue to improve the capabilities of the Evolution in order to stay at the front of the pack.

RESOURCES

USSTC
(707) 643-1000
www.usstc.com

Nitto Tire
www.nittotire.com

NASA Pro Racing
(510) 232-NASA
www.nasaprotracing.com

Good Sport Racing
www.goodsportracing.com

Robispec
www.robispec.com

Innovate Motorsports
www.innovatemotorsports.com

Evil Genius Racing
www.evigenusracing.com

1710 • 089