



SMOKE NEAR THE WATER

Formula Drift is a motorsports series about car control, these high-powered cars rip through the courses burning up tires in a dance of tire smoke.

Formula Drift or FormulaD as it is known started its 19th season as the opening event of the Long Beach week of racing. The series uses turns 9, 10 and 11 of the street course to the delight of the packed grandstands. This unique form of Motorsports is won by impressing the judges much like an Olympic event. To the casual viewer all they see are cars burning up tires, seemingly out of control. Looking deeper and you can see the art and skill required to make their way around the course. High horsepower is the first ingredient to getting these beasts to light up the tires and of course the series is full of tire sponsors looking to impress the millions of car fans with their performance and standing in the Tire Cup battle.

Drifting is part of an entire car culture that has been mostly made up of imports from Japan but is now including American muscle cars. The infield parking area was a car show with fan's custom builds of low-slung rides with big wings and stunning engines. This series is so important to the manufacturers that Toyota used it as the launch for their all-new GR Corolla. It is also the car the Rain X sponsored Ryan Tuerck will be running this year.

FormulaD is an elimination series like Drag Racing or March Madness. Competitors are paired up and the winner of each pairing moves on. In the pairs each driver gets a lead pass and follow pass. As you can see in the pictures one driver is going into the corner first and is leading the dance. The second driver uses their skill to watch and follow the first driver. Each driver is scored on their car handling ability. After the first run, the drivers return to the start and switch positions for a 2nd pass. Continued -



It is after that 2nd pass that the judges make their decision as to who advances. Long Beach had a full field of 32 cars for this season opener and the show was awesome as you can see in the pictures until we got to the semifinals. The role of the following driver is to match what the lead is doing and while tight running is beautiful to watch as a driver must know when to open the gap. Fredric "The Norwegian Hammer" Aasbo was trailing in his Gold RockStar Supra thru turn 9 of LBGB road course as Matt Field began the transition of his Corvette to run past the packed turn 10 grandstand when he was too close to Matt. The tap sent the Corvette spinning and hitting the unforgiving walls. While Aasbo was very apologetic and took complete responsibility for the incident (the judges awarded the win to Field) Field's car could not be repaired within the allotted time provided with the rules. Ryan Tuerck therefore had a single car run to win the event.



