

*For Immediate Press release:  
2008 Formula D Seattle, WA  
Evergreen Raceway  
August 9th 2008*

The wet and wild crowd present at Round Five of the 2008 Formula Drift Championship series in Seattle Washington witnessed the magic of Robbie Nishida as he drifted the Hankook Tire/Peak Performance Nissan 350Z to an incredible podium finish.

At Seattle's Evergreen Speedway, known by many as one of the toughest courses for the 2008 season, Robbie Nishida solidified his membership in the brotherhood of elite Formula D drivers by qualifying 4th out of the Top 32 and with one of the fastest entry speeds. Robbie's 4th qualifying position put him up against Justin Pawlak in the 1st round. The Hankook Tire/Peak Performance Nissan 350Z with the BC Stroker Kit proved to be too much for Pawlak, ensuring Robbie a spot in the Great 8. From that moment on, everything changed as Mother Nature sent in the rain to put the Hankook tires to the test. Robbie was now faced with Ryan Tuerck, This would prove to be especially challenging since Tuerck is very familiar with inclement weather, learning much of his drifting skills on the East Coast. Again, Robbie rose to the occasion by piloting the Hankook Tire/Peak Performance Nissan 350Z to perfection, forcing Ryan Tuerck to spin out while Robbie gave chase. The C-West body kit was put to the test as Robbie smashed the wall in avoidance. In the Final 4 round, Robbie faced the #1 qualifier Sam Hibernante in the Mopar Dodge Viper. The round was very close but Sam's smooth style in the wet conditions and years of ice drifting experience forced Robbie into the Consolation Round to battle his new rival Tanner Foust. During the first run, Robbie chased Tanner's near perfect run ending with an 8 to 7 advantage for Tanner. For the next run, with Robbie in the lead, it would be next to impossible for Tanner to make a mistake. But miracles do happen at Formula D as the half-wet and half-dry track conditions caused Robbie to make a slight correction forcing Tanner to spin out, handing an awesome 3rd place podium finish to Robbie and Team Hankook Tire/Peak performance.



"We are very excited about our 2008 season, the driver, car and team are in harmony and we expect positive results at Round 6's Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, California," said Team Manager Eddie Kim. He added, "The 3rd place podium finish has also ensured Robbie's position in the Red Bull World Finals Invitational in November. That's just icing on the cake." Regarding Robbie Nishida and the team's performance, he said "to bear witness to Robbie's climb to the podium is something I can only describe as legendary. Truly amazing."

Along with blood, sweat and tears, the Hankook Tire/Peak Performance Team would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued commitment and faith in the team:

Hankook Tire, BC Brian Crower, Enkei, C-West, KW Suspension, Seibon, Injen, Status, Apexi, Performance Friction, JE Pistons, Gruppe-S.com, Peak Performance, Dynamic Autosports, and Simpson Racing Products.