

Formula D Long Beach, Round 1

This past weekend Miguel Jimenez and Tarrant Tutogi managed the Wilwood booth at the first round of the Formula D Pro Drift series in Long Beach, California. Wilwood's presence among the race teams has more than doubled since 2009, with 17 total cars using Wilwood brakes. Of the 17 using the brakes, 15 are affiliates and 13 of these made the top 32 main event on Saturday.

The booth setup went rather smoothly and was located next to the industry suspension leader TEIN and Discount/American Tire Company and this worked to Wilwood's advantage. Friday was setup day and qualifying, not to mention a workday for most, so the crowd was a bit small with about 1,500-2,000 fans. This allowed the fellows from Wilwood to spend a little more time meeting with the teams and getting feedback of the setups they are using. According to Miguel, all of the feedback was positive.

There were 54 cars trying to make the top 32 for Saturday's main event. Morning practice was intense and a preview of what would be great competition. By the early afternoon, the top 32 was complete and this included a first through fifth place sweep of Wilwood affiliates, including three of our close friends from Falken Tire. After qualifying the crowd surged and provided a busy afternoon to finish off Friday.

The fellows from Wilwood started off Saturday's main event early and by 10 am the sold out crowd made themselves known. The Wilwood fellows were busy all day long answering questions and noting the applications customers were looking for. We had many requests for Honda/Acura kits and also many customers that did not know Wilwood had them, but were excited to hear that we did. The individual components got a good look as well as many up and coming drifters are becoming more interested in customizing hydraulic hand brake assemblies. Wilwood also received good attention from other teams that are interested in using our components, such as Hankook Tires and a few privateers.

In the competition Wilwood equipped cars swept the podium, with Vaughn Gitten Jr. taking first place in his Monster Energy Drink / Falken tire 2011 Ford Mustang. Rounding out the podium was Rhys Millen in the Hyundai Genesis equipped with Dynapro 4s in second and Tanner Foust in the Rockstar / AEM Scion TC with Dynapro 6s in third. Overall, Wilwood affiliates brought in 7 of the top 13 spots and gave Wilwood great representation.



Rhys Millen in the Red Bull Hyundai Genesis equipped with Wilwood's lightweight scalloped rotors and Dynapro 4-piston calipers, storms into the sweeper on his way to his 2nd place podium finish.



First place finisher Vaughn Gitten Jr. in the Monster Energy/Falken Tires Mustang maintains the edge on two-time champion, Sam Hubinette in the Dodge/SHR methanol powered Challenger. Both cars are Wilwood equipped in the front and rear.



Michael Essa's new GSR Motorsports V10 powered BMW 335i grabbed a lot of attention all weekend. His BMW is set up with a custom 14-inch front kit with Wilwood Superlite calipers and twin rear Dynapros with a hydraulic handbrake.



The Garage Boso/Falken Tire Nissan S15 showed that it drove as well as it looked with Ross Petty behind the wheel. Ross mentioned that he loved his new lightweight Wilwood setup and the hydraulic handbrake.



Two-time champion, Tanner Foust, piloting the Rockstar/AEM Scion TC, finished third with a strong performance. The TC is outfitted with Dynapro 6-piston calipers and scalloped lightweight rotors.



Dai Yoshihara looks to start the season off strong in his remodeled Falken Tire/ Discount Tire S13 that was built by SPD Metalworks and is powered by a 500+ horsepower LS6. Stopping comes in the form of lightweight Wilwood 13-inch rotors and Dynapro Calipers.



Ken Gushi attacked the course in his Scion Racing/RS-R TC. Ken's car is equipped with front Dynapro 6's with twin calipers in the rear including the Dynapro Single Hydraulic handbrake setup.



Finishing third overall last year, Tyler McQuarrie looks forward to another productive year in his Falken Tire Nissan 350Z that is powered by an LS6, built by Wilwood dealer Autosport Dynamics. The 350Z uses Wilwood custom 13-inch lightweight rotors and Dynapro 6 and 4-piston calipers.



Privateer rookie, Jeff Abbot, showed a promising strong performance in his Millennium Motorsports Turbo Mazda Miata. Jeff is using a custom Dynapro Single Hydraulic handbrake with a Wilwood master cylinder.



Michael Essa again screaming through the sweeper in his V10 powered BMW 335i



Sporting a new color scheme, Darren McNamara started the season off strong in his 600+ horsepower LS6 powered Saturn Sky. Like his Falken teammates, he confides in the Wilwood Dynapro 6 and rear Dynapro 4-piston calipers to help tame the sky.



Veteran privateer, Tony Brakohiapa, battled wiring issues all weekend, but managed to make the top 16 with a strong 13th place finish. Tony is using a pair of Wilwood Dynalites for his hydraulic rear caliper.



Driving the second Falken Tire Mustang, Justin Pawlack flies through the sweeper. Justin's Mustang is equipped with the same 13-inch front kit and Dynapro rear calipers found on the Monster Mustang.



Dodge returns to the Formula D series with an 800 horsepower, methanol-powered Challenger, driven by two-time champion Samuel Hubinette. This is the debut for the Challenger and it finished strong in 6th place, using Wilwood 13-inch floating rotors and Dynapro 6-piston calipers all around.



The Falken crew celebrating Vaughn Gitten's first place finish in his new Monster Energy Mustang.



Rookie, Charles Ng, driving his LS6 powered Mazda RX-7 with fully equipped Wilwood brakes, made a strong debut qualifying 27th in his first professional event.



Vaughn Gitten Jr. in his new Monster Energy/Falken Tire 2011 Mustang, built by Autosport Dynamics, attacked the track the entire day and finished first in round 1. Vaughn is using Wilwood's 13-inch Mustang kit with custom twin rear calipers.