

GENE HUSTING REPORTS FROM THE YATABE ARENA, JAPAN.

Yet Again Associated and Yokomo Dominate!

THE 1995 IFMAR 1/10 OFF ROAD

World Championships

The Yatabe Arena, in Tsukuba City, Japan, was the site for the 1995 IFMAR Off Road World Championships, sponsored by Yokomo and R/C Car Technique. The washboard section is in the foreground, and in the lane behind, the drivers take the double jumps, on the right, land on the downside and generate enough speed to easily clear the big triple jumps in one jump. The pit area is in the room behind the driver's stand.



The 1995 Off Road World Championships, the first ever to be held in Japan, took place at Masami Hirotsuka's home track, making Masami, the 7 time World Champion, an overwhelming favourite. Yatabe Arena, in Tsukuba City, located about 30 miles northeast of Tokyo, is also owned by Yokomo. This beautiful indoor track was reckoned to be the best track yet that we've had for a World Championship event.

At the warm up race in April, the temperature was a mild 60 to 70°, and quite pleasant. Mark Pavidis TQ'd and won, but for the

Craig Drescher led the English Team, with the new young star, Jon Leonard, learning very fast. Most of the foreign drivers found the jumps a bit hard to get used to.

World's event there was a different dirt composition, with a totally different track layout. The temperature changed quite a bit too - the week began with 95° and 85% humidity, and ended with 103° and 85% humidity. It was a lot hotter than that on the driver's stand though. Believe it or not, at 2pm on our 2nd practice day, with the temperature at 95°, within 1/2 an hour the temperature dropped dramatically, then we had rain, followed by hailstones bigger than golf balls. Unbelievable!

Before the American drivers left for Japan, So-Cal Raceway, in Southern California, changed their track layout to that published as the World Champs track, a perfectly legal aid to help eliminate any 'home track' advantage. Needless to say, everyone who could bet there had been getting as much track time as they could, including racing for 5 minutes, the World's format.

It Was Quite An Adventure!

After arriving at Narita airport, we then had a 1 1/2 hour drive, in the dark and on the wrong side of the road for us, to our Hotel. Considering that 99% of

the road signs were in Japanese only (!), the fact we made it there OK was a minor miracle, made possible only because of a very detailed road map drawn up for us by Masami's father, Masaaki, for whom we owe our lives. Thank you, Masaaki!

Before checking into our Hotel though, we had to make a much more important stop. "Where to?" you may ask. To McDonald's of course, and thankfully it was within easy walking distance of our Hotel! The sign, of course, was in Japanese, but the Golden Arches, and more importantly, the food? Exactly the same as back home, apart from the prices, which were about 1 1/2 times more expensive! Everyone from the USA, as well as the Teams from England, Germany, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa delighted in these delicacies, as the alternatives were simply too scary. They don't call me 'Captain McDonald' for nothing!

On the first practice day, everyone got a first look at Associated's all new RC10B2 moulded chassis car. The obvious question was "How good is it?" Only time would tell, but the Associated Team drivers were very confident...

Everybody was, as usual, busy learning the track and trying to find the ideal car set-up, then deciding on whether the Pro-Line or new Yokomo tyres worked better, or in the case of the XX drivers, the Yokomo or the Losi Silver compounds. In actual fact, all 3 types were pretty close to each other.

2nd QUALIFYING

On the first day of qualifying, there were 2 Rounds of practice in the morning, then 2 Rounds of qualifying in the afternoon, followed by 4 Rounds the next day.

Masami Hirotsuka led after the first Round, to no-one's real surprise. He turned 14 laps in 5 minutes and 16.29 seconds, or 14/5.16.29.

1st ROUND

1)	MASAMI HIROSAKA	14/5.16.29
2)	MARK PAVIDIS	14/5.21.46
3)	MATT FRANCIS	14/5.21.70

2nd ROUND

1)	MATT FRANCIS	14/5.18.29
2)	MASAMI HIROSAKA	14/5.20.05
3)	CLIFF LETT	14/5.20.75

3rd ROUND

1)	MATT FRANCIS	14/5.16.38
2)	CLIFF LETT	14/5.20.56
3)	GREG HODAPP	14/5.21.67

4th ROUND

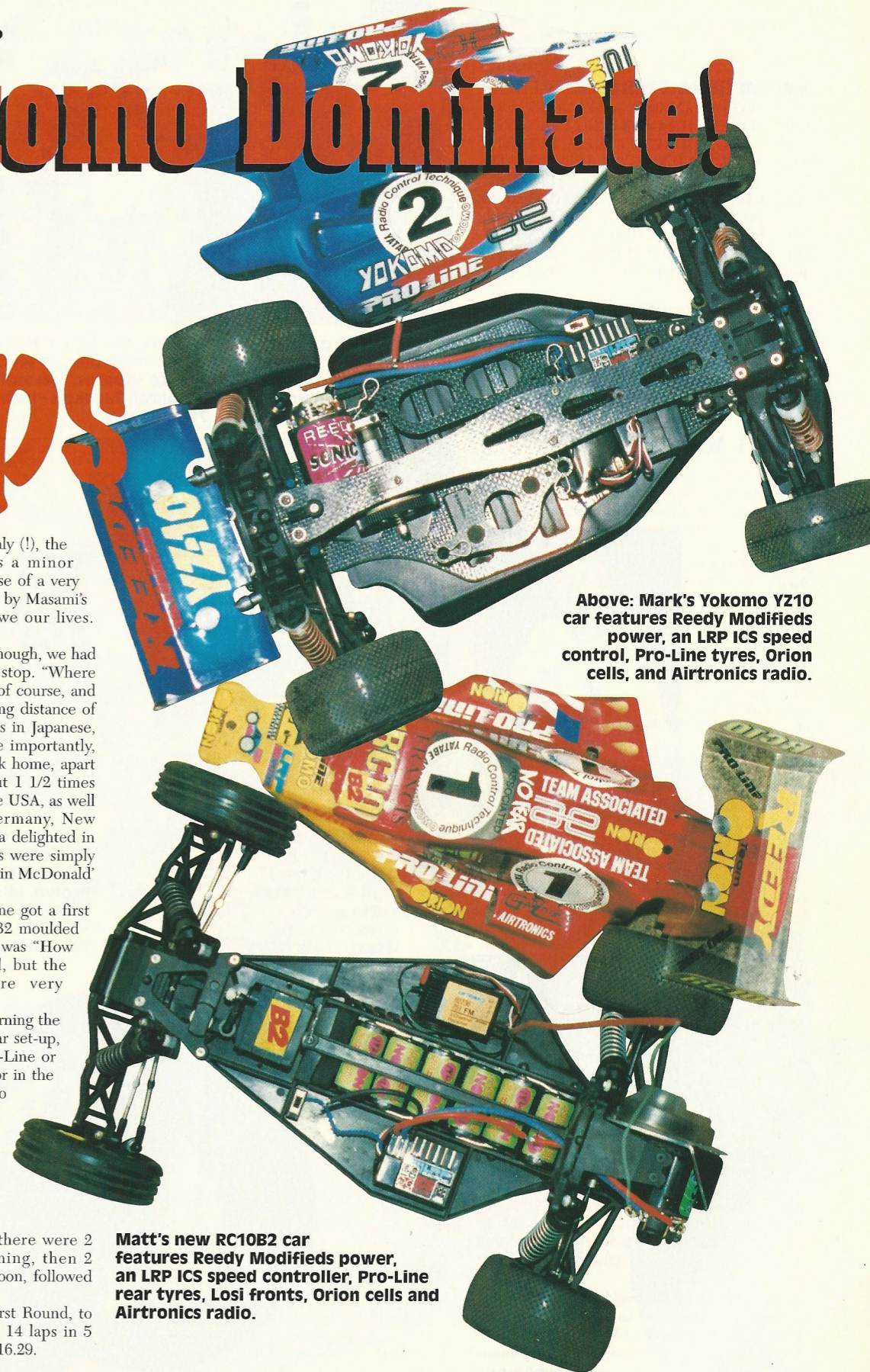
1)	BARRY BAKER	14/5.22.11
2)	MATT FRANCIS	14/5.22.61
3)	BRIAN KINWALD	14/5.22.63

5th ROUND

1)	MATT FRANCIS	14/5.17.74
2)	MARK PAVIDIS	14/5.18.68
3)	MASAMI HIROSAKA	14/5.19.01

6th ROUND

1)	MATT FRANCIS	14/5.15.94
2)	GREG HODAPP	14/5.17.11
3)	MARK PAVIDIS	14/5.20.37



Above: Mark's Yokomo YZ10 car features Reedy Modifieds power, an LRP ICS speed control, Pro-Line tyres, Orion cells, and Airtronics radio.

Matt's new RC10B2 car features Reedy Modifieds power, an LRP ICS speed controller, Pro-Line rear tyres, Losi fronts, Orion cells and Airtronics radio.

TOP 10 QUALIFIERS

1st	MATT FRANCIS	14/5.15.94
2nd	MASAMI HIROSAKA	14/5.16.29
3rd	GREG HODAPP	14/5.17.11
4th	MARK PAVIDIS	14/5.18.68
5th	MARK FRANCIS	14/5.20.37
6th	CLIFF LETT	14/5.20.56
7th	JACK JOHNSON	14/5.21.30
8th	SOHRAB TAVAKOLI	14/5.21.37
9th	DEREK FURUTANI	14/5.21.88
10th	BARRY BAKER	14/5.22.11

Matt Francis ultimately took the Top Qualifier honours by just half a second over Masami, but equally, if not more important, is the fact that Matt was 1st, 2nd or 3rd in every qualifying Round. He was simply the fastest driver there!

2wd A MAIN - LEG 1

The cars were lined up on the staggered grid on the straightaway in front of the driver's stand, the drivers were introduced to the crowd, the horn sounded, and the fight for the 1995 IFMAR 2wd World Championship title got underway!



Before you can win, you must beat 7 time World Champion, Masami Hirotsuka, on his home track. Not an easy thing to do!

Matt Francis took off in the lead, with Masami just 2 feet behind as they went down the start straight, around the sweeper, and down the main straightaway. The cars were very close together over the washboard section, up the small jump and around the tight left hander.



Mike Reedy is setting records that are going to be hard to beat. His Reedy Modifieds have now powered 15 World Champions.

Matt and Masami were side by side going over the double jump, but, as they started up the triple jump, Masami looked too close to Matt, so Masami turned slightly to avoid hitting him, but he overdid it a little, and the jump threw him off the track!

This let a number of cars get by, with Scott Brown going into 2nd and Mark Pavidis into 3rd. It took Mark a couple of laps to find a way around Scott, but then he finally made a clean pass to move into 2nd. A short while later Scott had a problem, so Derek Furutani, who managed to drive around all the crashes, moved from his 9th place starting position into 3rd.

Even though he had a big lead, Matt's RC10B2 wasn't waiting around for anyone! He won by 9 seconds over Mark, beating his TQ time by 2 1/2 seconds in the process. Mark came in 2nd with Derek Furutani 3rd.



After you get past the Yokomo girls, the 2wd A Main drivers are, World Champion Matt Francis (kneeling), and from the left, Mark Francis - 4th, Derek Furutani - 3rd, Tom Yokobori - Race sponsor, Masami Hirotsuka - 2nd, Barry Baker - 6th, Greg Hodapp - 9th, Sohrab Tavakoli - 10th, Jack Johnson - 9th, Mark Pavidis - 5th, and Cliff Lett - 7th.



2WD A MAIN LEG 1

- 1) MATT FRANCIS
- 2) MARK PAVIDIS
- 3) DEREK FURUTANI
- 4) BARRY BAKER
- 5) MARK FRANCIS
- 6) MASAMI HIROSAKA
- 7) CLIFF LETT
- 8) JACK JOHNSON
- 9) GREG HODAPP
- 10) SOHRAB TAVAKOLI

2wd A MAIN - LEG 2

Matt Francis took off in the lead again, but Masami took a tighter line in the sweeper, and onto the straightaway the cars were too close together, so Matt backed off and fell in right behind Masami. At the tight left hander before the jumps, Matt tried an inside pass on Masami, but Masami closed the door and the two cars tangled. Matt got away first, whilst Greg Hodapp took over 2nd place with Mark Pavidis now in 3rd.

Mark was sitting right on Greg's tail, then pressured Greg into going too tight into the esses, where Greg rolled over, only to be collected by

4wd World Champion, Mark Pavidis, kneeling, with Tom Yokobori, owner of Yokomo and Yatabe Raceway, Scott Brown, left - 8th, Derek Furutani - 9th, Patrick Feschtschenko, from Germany - 10th, Barry Baker - 7th, Greg Hodapp - 6th, Jack Johnson 5th, Brian Kinwald - 2nd, Mark Francis - 4th, and Masami Hirotsuka - 3rd.

Mark. Mark was able to get away in 2nd place though, followed now by Masami. A couple of laps later, Masami passed Mark for 2nd place, then Mark had a problem and got passed by almost everyone! The result was that the other member of the Francis Racing Team; Matt's brother Mark, moved into 3rd.

So, Matt went on to win Leg 2, again setting an even quicker time of 14/5.13.48. Matt was consistently the quickest in qualifying, and the fastest in the Finals, and won the 2wd World Championships to the delight of the crowd, who gave him a very loud ovation. Congratulations Matt, you deserved it!!

2wd A MAIN - LEG 2

- 1) MATT FRANCIS
- 2) MASAMI HIROSAKA
- 3) MARK FRANCIS
- 4) DEREK FURUTANI
- 5) SOHRAB TAVAKOLI
- 6) CLIFF LETT
- 7) BARRY BAKER
- 8) MARK PAVIDIS
- 9) JACK JOHNSON
- 10) GREG HODAPP

2wd A MAIN - LEG 3

Having already won the World Championship title, Matt Francis elected not to run in the 3rd Leg to allow the other competitors a good clean battle amongst themselves for the overall finishing positions.

Masami took the lead followed by Greg Hodapp and Mark Pavidis. Mark pulled up alongside Greg on the tight left hander before the jumps but Greg closed the door and they bumped, stopping both cars, allowing Mark Francis to go into 2nd, Mark Pavidis getting away from the tangle in 3rd before passing Francis when he got sideways coming off the jumps. A short while later, Mark Pavidis caught Masami and tried to pass on the inside at the end of the straightaway, but they tangled and Masami got hit by Mark Francis, so Pavidis then had the lead with Francis 2nd and Masami 3rd, then

Francis again went sideways off the jumps allowing Masami into 2nd! A few laps later, Masami caught Pavidis in the esses where Mark rolled, so Masami and a few other cars got by. So, the 3rd Leg win went to Masami, with Derek Furutani taking 2nd and Mark Francis 3rd.

2wd A MAIN - LEG 3

- 1st MASAMI HIROSAKA
- 2nd DEREK FURUTANI
- 3rd MARK FRANCIS
- 4th GREG HODAPP
- 5th JACK JOHNSON
- 6th CLIFF LETT
- 7th MARK PAVIDIS
- 8th BARRY BAKER
- 9th SOHRAB TAVAKOLI
- 10th MATT FRANCIS (DNS)

2wd B MAIN

- 1st BRIAN KINWALD
- 2nd RICHARD SAXTON
- 3rd KEVIN MOORE
- 4th SCOTT BROWN
- 5th BRIAN DUNBAR
- 6th SCOTT HUGHES
- 7th ELLIS STAFFORD
- 8th ATUSHI HARA
- 9th HIROSHI SUZUKI
- 10th CRAIG DRESCHER

Psyched Out?

What a change in fortunes. You're probably all asking "How did Brian get in the B Main?" Well, I'm going to give you my educated guess, for whatever that's worth. While Brian was running with Associated, Losi had just come out with their new car. Because it was brand new, Brian got it into his head that he didn't have a chance to win after that. You all know about this, it's called getting 'psyched out'. The funny thing is, Associated cars still finished 1st and 3rd at the last World's race, with Brian's taking the title.

POS	DRIVER	CAR	MOTOR
1st	MATT FRANCIS	RC10B2	REEDY
2nd	M. HIROSAKA	RC10B2	REEDY
3rd	D. FURUTANI	LOSI XX	MAXTEC
4th	MARK FRANCIS	RC10B2	REEDY
5th	MARK PAVIDIS	RC10B2	REEDY
6th	BARRY BAKER	LOSI XX	MAXTEC
7th	CLIFF LETT	RC10B2	REEDY
8th	JACK JOHNSON	LOSI XX	TRINITY
9th	GREG HODAPP	LOSI XX	MAXTEC
10th	S. TAVAKOLI	LOSI XX	PEAK



Matt Francis's new 2wd World Championship winning RC10B2.

WHAT A DEBUT!



4wd World Champion Mark Pavidis fought a tough battle against two other World Champions, and won. Brian Kinwald, left, finished 2nd, with Masami Hirotsuka 3rd.

Perhaps the same thing happened this time around...

The first night that Mark Pavidis actually raced the new car at So Cal Raceway, Brian lapped Mark in the first 5 minute qualifier, but, as we learned to tune the new RC10B2, by the end of the week Mark was giving Brian all the speed he could handle, and then some more!

After the 2wd event was over, Brian asked Jurgen Lautenbach if he could try one of the new LRP ICS speed controls in his 4wd Yokomo car. Jurgen said, "Of course," and then helped Brian to set it up. Now Brian had everything everyone else had, he was a happy camper again!

The 4wd Fight - Yokomo Domination!

Yatabe Arena being Yokomo's home track, it came as no real surprise to see 8 of their cars in the top 10! The other two cars were from Kyosho, the quickest of these driven by Patrick Feschtschenko, qualifying an eventual 7th, with the other, driven by 'Jumpin' Jack' Johnson, claiming 9th on the grid.

4wd QUALIFYING

1st	BRIAN KINWALD	15/5.21.34
2nd	MARK PAVIDIS	15/5.0.50
3rd	BARRY BAKER	14/5.0.59
4th	SCOTT BROWN	14/5.0.90
5th	MASAMI HIROSAKA	14/5.1.82
6th	GREG HODAPP	14/5.3.27
7th	P. FESCHTSCHENKO	14/5.3.59
8th	MARK FRANCIS	14/5.3.62
9th	JACK JOHNSON	14/5.4.26
10th	DEREK FURUTANI	14/5.4.30

Brian sure came back in a big way! It's funny what a little bit of self confidence can do. It's like after you've won your first ever A Main, it's then much easier to win the next one, because now you know you can do it...

4wd A MAIN - LEG 1

Brian took off in the lead, while Greg Hodapp got around the sweeper quickly and got alongside Mark Pavidis. On the straightaway they bumped

and spun out, so Masami moved into 2nd then made a clean pass on Brian in the infield to take the lead.

A couple of laps later, Masami got sideways coming off the jumps allowing Brian to retake the lead, but then 2 laps later, Brian rolled on the washboard section and Masami went back into the lead, with Mark Francis in 2nd and Pavidis in 3rd. Masami won by 3 seconds over Francis, with Pavidis just 2 feet behind, then Brian in a freight train, again just 2 feet behind Mark. Masami's winning time of 15/5.19.06 was the fastest time of the week!

4wd A MAIN LEG 1

1st	MASAMI HIROSAKA
2nd	MARK FRANCIS
3rd	MARK PAVIDIS
4th	BRIAN KINWALD
5th	DEREK FURUTANI
6th	BARRY BAKER
7th	JACK JOHNSON
8th	GREG HODAPP
9th	SCOTT BROWN
10th	PATRICK FESCHTSCHENKO

4wd A MAIN - LEG 2

Brian took off in the lead, with Mark Pavidis close behind. On lap 2, Brian went sideways on the washboard, allowing Pavidis by to take the lead, with Scott Brown going into 2nd, and Brian now 3rd. A few laps later, Brian got past Scott and went into 2nd, then, 3 laps later, Brian rolled off the small jump, dropping to 4th. Mark Pavidis went on to win, with Scott Brown 2nd and Jack Johnson 3rd.

4wd A MAIN LEG 2

1st	MARK PAVIDIS
2nd	SCOTT BROWN
3rd	JACK JOHNSON
4th	BRIAN KINWALD
5th	MARK FRANCIS
6th	PATRICK FESCHTSCHENKO
7th	DEREK FURUTANI
8th	GREG HODAPP
9th	MASAMI HIROSAKA
10th	BARRY BAKER

4wd A MAIN - LEG 3

So, there were 4 drivers in with a chance of winning the 4wd Championship title, and each

driver knew exactly what he and the other three drivers had to do... When the horn sounded, all eyes were on Brian and Mark. They both got a good start and started pulling away, thanks to the tight traffic behind them.

For three minutes Mark sat comfortably five feet behind Brian, knowing that all he had to do was finish 2nd in this race to win the Championship and that it didn't make much sense to challenge Brian for 1st place. Getting caught up in a tangle and letting someone else go by for the win wouldn't be a good idea! As it was, Mark made an error, rolling coming off the jumps, and when he got going again, he had Greg Hodapp right on his rear bumper, with Masami also right there. Brian now had a 4 second lead, so Mark had to pick up his pace to keep Hodapp and Masami behind him.

For the next two minutes it looked like Mark, Greg Hodapp and Masami were hooked together and towing each other round. None of them made any mistakes, and the trio actually began closing in on Brian. Brian took the win though with 15/5.23.48, with Mark just two seconds behind, whilst Greg Hodapp was 2/10 of a second or one car length behind Mark (close!), with Masami another two car lengths behind Greg. Mark could now take a deep breath knowing he had won the 4wd World Championships. Congratulations, Mark!

4wd A MAIN - LEG 3

1)	BRIAN KINWALD
2)	MARK PAVIDIS
3)	GREG HODAPP
4)	MASAMI HIROSAKA
5)	BARRY BAKER
6)	MARK FRANCIS
7)	JACK JOHNSON
8)	PATRICK FESCHTSCHENKO
9)	DEREK FURUTANI
10)	SCOTT BROWN

4wd OVERALL RESULTS

POS DRIVER	CAR	MOTOR
1st	MARK PAVIDIS	YOKOMO REEDY
2nd	BRIAN KINWALD	YOKOMO TRINITY
3rd	M. HIROSAKA	YOKOMO REEDY
4th	MARK FRANCIS	YOKOMO REEDY
5th	JACK JOHNSON	YOKOMO TRINITY
6th	GREG HODAPP	KYOSHO MAXTEC
7th	BARRY BAKER	YOKOMO TRINITY
8th	SCOTT BROWN	YOKOMO TRINITY
9th	D. FURUTANI	KYOSHO MAXTEC
10th	P. FESCHTSCHENKO	YOKOMO LRP

If it hadn't been for McDonald's, there would have been some very hungry racers at Yatabe Arena. Ordering was easy thanks to the pictures (all you had to do was point!), but the prices? Expensive!

