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YOU FOUND OUT FIRST



M7 JAPAN TAKES D1GP, AGAIN ... WE THINK.

You may recall the funny English PR. in our Nov. '10 issue that announced the victory of our boy and M7-sponsored Nobuteru "NOB" Taniguchi in Japan's HECOMR Integra one-make race series. You might also remember a few months later, in the Feb. '11 issue, where we announced that the 2010 D1GP drifting champs was



clenched by none other than M7 RX-7 pilot Yoichi Imamura (with Masao Suenaga clinching Third in the M7 S15). Well, it seems that M7 Japan is back in the winner's circle, thanks to M7-sponsored Masabu "Max" Orido's latest D1GP victory at Japan's Autopolis, in Oita prefecture. At least that's what we think their latest JDM email says. We'll let you decide:



D1 Grand Prix Round 3 that started in bad weather in Autopolis. Defend champ Yoichi Imamura and Third Place Masao Suenaga had fought hard against the road of wet.

Did not advance to the chased run tournament by Masao Suenaga due to the machine trouble. It becomes running that waits for the recovery shrouded, and the chase run that finally restarts has been discontinued because of rain and fog. This be can start the D1 Grand Prix and the first doing within 11 years.

Tentative of Masabu Orido the top was splendidly decided to the result based on the order of a single run of second stage. It became an opening game that the activity in the future was able to be expected this year's series champion of Masabu Orido!

TRAGEDY STRIKES RALLY AMERICA



In more sobering news, 31-year-old RallyCar driver Matthew Marker, of Elk Rapids, MI, lost traction around a tight right-hander during recent Olympus Rally competition, collided his '06 Subaru STI with a tree, and ultimately was unable to recover from injuries he sustained. Co-driver Christopher Gordon, of Brooklyn Park, MN, wasn't seriously injured. The event marked the first competitor fatality suffered in the Rally America series in about eight years—a series Marker had been a part of since the '90s Drift Rally for years prior.

About rally—a motorsport many might describe as the last pure one in existence—experienced Rally America co-driver Jake Blattner (Team 600) who reportedly knew Marker well, commented, "Rally is a dangerous sport, but that's what sets it apart, it's you against the wild, open road, and the clock." He continued, "Marker was a very passionate, energetic, hip gearhead." The Olympus Rally event was decidedly concluded following the crash, and points were awarded to drivers based on their times thus far. Future events were to go on as scheduled, as of press time.

www.rally-america.com