

Motegi Racing Super Drift Challenge: Michael Essa heads the field

It'll be an eight-car shootout at this weekend's two-night, under-the-lights Motegi Racing Super Drift Challenge.

Four Americans in the invitational field include Michael Essa, the 2013 Formula DRIFT champion. He'll be joined by Forrest Wang (12th in points in 2018), Dan Burkett and Dylan Hughes.

The foreign contingent features Joao Barion (Brazil), Faruk Kugay (Poland), Dean Kearney (Ireland) and Federico Sceriffo (Italy).

All drivers will be fresh off the first race of Formula DRIFT's 2019 schedule, held last weekend here on the Grand Prix circuit.

Action begins Friday night at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 7 p.m. You can watch all the slipping, sliding and tire-smoking action from Grandstands 16, 18, 24, 25 and 26, with seating on a first-come/first-served basis.

Last year, Poland's Piotr Wiecek won both nights of the Grand Prix event, with Wang finishing 2nd and 3rd. Wiecek went on to finish 3rd in the season point standings behind champion James Deane and runner-up Fredric Aasbo.

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MOTEGI RACING SUPER DRIFT CHALLENGE ENTRY LIST

Joao Barion / Brazil	Chevy Corvette C7
Dan Burkett / USA	Toyota Supra (A80)
Michael Essa / USA	BMW M3 (E46)
Dylan Hughes / USA	BMW M3 (E46)
Dean Kearney / Ireland	Dodge Viper
Faruk Kugay / Poland	BMW M3 (E92)
Federico Sceriffo / Italy	Ferrari 599
Forrest Wang / USA	Nissan Silvia (S15)