



Singapore's Ivan Lim missed the cut for the final in the US, but the experience will hold him in good stead. ID AGENCY

## MOTOR SPORT

# More roar for Singapore

Formula Drift keen to steer a world series event here



**LOW LIN FHOONG**  
in los angeles  
linfhoong@mediacorp.com.sg

AFTER the spectacular success of the recent Formula 1 SingTel Singapore Grand Prix, the future's looking up for motor-racing here.

The speed machines from the United States-based Formula Drift series could be heading to Singapore, with the sport's bosses keen on starting a world championship with Asia in mind.

"We're looking into hosting the world championship in different countries at different times of the year, like football's World Cup," said Jim Liaw, president and co-founder of Formula Drift Holdings, speaking on the sidelines of the final race of the 2008 Formula Drift Pro Championship in California last week.

"It's an opportunity for the drifting community to open its doors to the world. The world championship are something we're building.

"When we refine and figure it out, we'll take the concept elsewhere and Singapore is definitely top on that list."

According to Liaw, the Formula Drift Singapore Championship 2008 in April has boosted the country's chances of hosting a world championship.

"Singapore already has prior experience and it's a central hub in Asia with many multi-national companies here and a facility that's being built."

The race could be held at the planned \$100 million racetrack in Changi, which is expected to be completed by 2011.

"The Changi racetrack that's being built is a Grade 2 track, which is suitable for drifting," said Marcus Lim, general manager of local tyre distributors Binter who organised the Formula Drift event in Singapore.

### THE FUTURE IS IN THE EAST

In drifting, cars are manoeuvred into controlled, high-speed slides on a circuit.

The sport has gained popularity in recent years, with over eight national leagues in countries such as Australia, Japan, Germany and United Kingdom.

US Formula Drift boasts an estimated television viewership of 250,000 for each

leg of its seven-race Pro Championship.

A sell-out crowd of 11,000 turned up to catch the Formula Drift Singapore event at the Changi Exhibition Centre.

To ride on the sport's growing popularity in Asia, Liaw is working with Binter to launch the Asia Cup, with stops in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and China or the Philippines.

"The strategy in Asia is to go to strong markets like Malaysia and build national stars that people can connect with," he said. "In the long term, we want to host a leg of the Formula Drift pro series in Singapore as well."

The drivers TODAY spoke to welcomed the idea.

"It'll be great if the championship were held outside the US," said American driver Conrad Grunewald, 28, who was one of three professional drivers at the Singapore race in April. "Judging by the Formula 1 race, Singapore will be a top notch location."

Ivan Lim, 27, who represented Singapore here, said fans would be in for a treat if a world championship was held in the country. "Singaporeans will get to see a higher level of drifting that's a lot faster, at over 160kmh. It's a lot of fun," he said.

## Going the distance in tribute to a mate

THE serious athletes sign up for marathons to compete, some do it to stay in shape, others run simply for the challenge.

Dr Cormac O'Muircheartaigh and the Singapore Gaelic Lions will run at this year's Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon with their friend, Alan Power, on their minds.

"Alan collapsed during a Gaelic football training session and passed away in July this year," explained O'Muircheartaigh of the Singapore Sports Council.

"We are running in memory of him and to raise awareness of sudden cardiac deaths."

The Singapore Gaelic Lions have about 200 members who play Gaelic football, a traditional Irish 15-a-side game that's a cross between football and rugby.

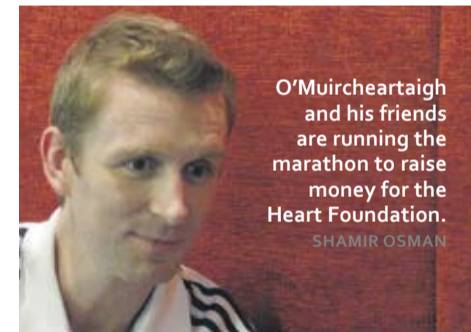
About 60 members of the club have entered the marathon on Dec 7 and more are expected to sign up.

"We have been running for different causes over the last four years and in memory of Alan we're trying to raise \$30,000 for the Singapore Heart Foundation," said O'Muircheartaigh, 34.

"While we can't decide what the funds will be used for, having an auto-defibrillator at sports facilities could make the difference between life and death."

Most of the Gaelic Lions are doing the 10km run, but O'Muircheartaigh is going farther. He said: "I'm wary that I haven't trained enough and with only 10 weeks to the marathon, I'll run the 21km half-marathon."

The Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon will flag off at the Esplanade Bridge. Featuring a new route, the event includes the full 42km event, the half-marathon, a 10km run, a wheelchair race and a kid's dash. SHAMIR OSMAN



O'Muircheartaigh and his friends are running the marathon to raise money for the Heart Foundation. SHAMIR OSMAN

## PARALYMPIANS TOAST THE BEIJING GAMES



WEE TECK HIAN

The Grand Mercure Roxy Hotel hosted some of Singapore's Paralympic athletes at a congratulatory dinner on Friday night, following the team's four-medal performance at the Beijing Paralympic Games. (picture from left) Jovin Tan, Theresa Goh and Tan's SKUD18 two-person keelboat partner, Desiree Lim, shared their experiences, and photos, in a laid-back environment at the Jia Wei Restaurant at the East Coast Road Hotel. "This is the first long break I'm having in nine years of training," said 21-year-old swimmer Goh, currently interning at the Singapore National Paralympic Council. The athletes are currently enjoying their off-season, but the competitive fire still burned strongly within. "My hands are really itching to sail and race again," said 22-year-old Tan, who teamed up with Lim to finish in eighth position in the keelboat race. SHAMIR OSMAN

## Home go top

HOME United moved to the top of the table after a narrow 1-0 win over the Young Lions in an NTUC Income-Yeo's S-League 2008 clash at Jalan Besar Stadium on Friday night.

Home's goal came in the 13th minute from national captain Indra Sahdan, who curled in a free-kick from the edge of the box.

The Young Lions piled on the pressure in search of the equaliser, but the Protectors held on to go level on points with the Super Reds.

Defending champions SAFFC are two points adrift, but like the Super Reds, they have a game in hand.

MILTON TAN

## SPORTS BETTING WITH THE LEGAL BOOKMAKER

League	Home Team	Away Team	Match KickOff (Singapore date/time)
K League	Jeju	Daegu	Sat, 18/10/08 1.30pm
K League	Gyeongnam	Pohang	Sat, 18/10/08 2.00pm
K League	Seongnam	Busan FC	Sat, 18/10/08 6.00pm
K League	Suwon	Gwangju	Sat, 18/10/08 6.30pm
K League	Incheon	Ulsan	Sun, 19/10/08 2.00pm
K League	Seoul	Daejeon	Sun, 19/10/08 2.00pm
K League	Chunnam	Jeonbuk	Sun, 19/10/08 2.30pm

**E Premier, E League Champ, German, Italian, Spanish and J League matches are also on sale.**  
For more details, please check Singapore Pools website.

### LIVE TELECAST AT SPORTSBUZZ@PARADIZ

Motor Racing	China Race (qualifying)	Sat, 18/10/08 2.00pm	
J League	Gamba Osaka	Jubilo Iwata	Sat, 18/10/08 3.00pm

### LIVE TELECAST AT SPORTSBUZZ@PARADIZ & KRANJI

E Premier	Middlesbrough	Chelsea	Sat, 18/10/08 7.45pm
E Premier	Liverpool	Wigan	Sat, 18/10/08 10.00pm
E Premier	Aston Villa	Portsmouth	Sat, 18/10/08 10.00pm
E Premier	Arsenal	Everton	Sat, 18/10/08 10.00pm

PLAY responsibly Always play with care. Do not bet illegally.

ROB Reg No: 196800202G

Towards Community Purpose and Benefit

SINGAPORE POOLS