

The Crafts 228

Chapter 228 : Drift Racing

Trundel City was located just west of Belfargos City, and not so far from the city; requiring only a thirty minutes light-rail train ride to reach. It was also slightly cheaper as compared to the capital of the planet. Due to this, the city was very populated by both workers, tourists and the likes. Many would settle down in Trundel City even if they had a job in Belfargos City, simply because it costs less.

Apart from the high population, Trundel City also benefited from Belfargos City in another way. It was a supply hub and depot for materials going in or out of Belfargos City. Trundel City was also an important economic partner with Belfargos City as the two cities had quite a few major trading collaborations and deals. This was all thanks to the fact that the Cardoso family —a branch family of the Oklo Dynasty— was in charge of the city.

However, there was another role Trundel City played, and it was one that gave it a unique nickname; the City of Leisure.

Being the home of the Oklo Dynasty, Belfargos City gave off a sacred and dignified feeling. As a result of this, few pleasure and recreation spots were built in the city. However, Trundel City was different as it provided all these facilities and more. What's more, its close proximity to Belfargos City made it easy for lovers of such facilities to make the trip.

Apart from the usual gambling dens, bordellos, and so on, one of the most popular leisure activities in Trundel City was hover car racing. It was a sport primarily hosted by the younger generation of the Trundel City, Belfargos City, and the other neighbouring cities.

In designated locations and specially constructed tracks, drivers would race using distinctive hovercars that offered no AI support. Relying only on their skills, vehicles and experience, they would try to reach the finish line first. This racing was officially termed Drift Racing [1].

As a competitive sport, Drift racing naturally involved high stakes. There was even a special gambling category set aside for it.

To make the racing fun and competitive, Drift racing was carried out at very high speeds. After all, with the abilities of a second or even first level Apertures Opening stage stellar practitioner, driving consistently at 190km/hr (118 mph) to 380 km/hr (236.1 mph) wasn't much of a challenge.

To achieve even higher speeds, special hover vehicles were made, with some going so far as to turn theirs into vestiges by utilising components powered by stellar energy. As such, vestige-smiths existed and played an important role even in this space.

While there were official drift races, the unofficial ones carried out by the youngsters in Trundel City happened to be the most popular. This was because such races had very little regulations which made it fiercer. Also, gambling wasn't banned, so many joined up in these races to make huge profits.

Although unofficial, these drift races weren't illegal nor banned by Trundel City's authority, which was one of the reasons the city was seen as a leisure centre and hotspot for rich second or third generations.

One of the most famous underground drift races was the Exo Rally, which was very popular in the upper class community. The organisers and spectators were mostly the younger generation of the upper class from Belfargos City and Trundel City, with many of them being related to the Oklo Dynasty's royal family. As such, the Exo Rally was a very high class event for the younger generation of the upper class.

The Exo Rally operated on an invite only for spectating, but it was open to every drift racer so long as they passed a few criteria. One of them was winning the league in the top drift races or leagues from the nearby cities. Another was reaching a certain level of popularity and success as a drift driver. But the most common method to qualify was through the lower leagues organised in Trundel City.

Currently, Lucas happened to attend one of these drift racing leagues. It was called K1, and in terms of the unique scaling system, was a third tier drift racing league. After it were the second tiers and the first tier was none other than the Exo Rally.

Compared to the other drift racing leagues, the K1 didn't have much stipulations for participating and to get a spectating ticket was quite cheap, at least when compared to the other leagues.

Twenty five federal coins...

That was the amount Lucas had to pay to watch attend the race. Even until now, he couldn't help but be stunned by the price. Despite that, there were hundreds of people gathered in the spectating stands of the race track.

Two hundred people paying twenty five federal coins was five thousand federal coins, and there were at least five hundred people present in the stands. This was the revenue generated in one day's race, and from the lowest league.

Five thousand federal coins might seem like nothing much, but it was the equivalent of ten months salary for an average citizen of Baylands City, city-state capital.

Apart from the ticket fee, there was revenue generated from merchandise sales, food sales, broadcasting rights, participation fee, and the most notable part, the gambling sector. From this, it could be seen that the league made a ton of money from every race. Only vestige-smithing companies could generate more revenue than a drift racing league.

'Belfargos city-state is truly a whole different experience.' Lucas sighed.

But he didn't become bothered by it. As a vestige-smith, Lucas could earn more than they did. Also, his purpose in coming here wasn't to start a drift racing track. Instead, Lucas wanted to learn more about this extreme sport since his next goal for crafting was related to it.

That's right; Lucas' target was to build hover cars, and there was no better place to see top class hover cars than a drift league.

After paying for a ticket, Lucas had walked into the stadium and went for his seat.

Since Belfargos city-state had the second largest human population after Digress city-state, no one found it strange that a human was attending the event.

The stadium was an exaggeratedly big arena that could easily compare to four world class stadiums back on Earth. The large size was mostly because of the fact that drift racing tracks had to be very huge and complex. One should know that the vehicles participating in this race could easily reach up to four hundred kilometres per hour (400km/hr, 248.5 mph). As such, the 'simple' tracks back on Earth couldn't work here.

Size wasn't the only thing the K1 drift racing stadium had over other stadiums on Earth. The K1 drift racing stadium was highly advanced and luxurious, that one might confuse it for a high standard event centre.

A floating projection was displayed above the track, showing the audience a clearer view of the race. At the edge of the tracks were transparent shields that could help mitigate both the noise and shockwave coming from the vehicles that moved at intense speeds. The seating section was divided into three: regular, seasonal and VIP, with the latter being an entire floating section. That's right; an entire seating section that floated in midair.

Apart from all these, the stadium also had a few advanced facilities like the repair shop for hover cars, and some other recreational spots for spectators who wanted to take a break from watching.

Lucas had arrived quite early for the day's race and it was to start in the next twenty minutes. Usually, he would have spent the time walking around and maybe buy a snack or two. But after checking out the prices of said snacks, Lucas had calmly retreated back to his seat.

A bag of a unique snack that looked just like peanuts was priced at five federal coins. For that same amount, Lucas could get an entire table of food in a fancy restaurant.

'Damn.' Lucas couldn't help but suck in a cold breath of air.

The organisers prevented food and drinks from being brought in from the outside, so spectators had no choice than to buy from them. Also, races could take as long as four hours, which meant that one way or the other, most spectators would end up spending more of their money here.

'Capitalism at its finest.'