

## The Crafts 335

### Chapter 335: Infinite Eight Circuit

Inside the simulation room, an entirely new environment had been generated. It was a mountain around four kilometres tall, almost half the height of Earth's tallest mountain, Mount Everest. This mountain was actually the site of a unique racing circuit. The racing circuit was built on and within a mountain; in other words, its tracks didn't just cover the mountain but continued within the mountain.

The name of this racing circuit was the Infinite Eight Circuit, and it was the location of the next race of the Nadire Underground League. Of course, this was just a simulated version of the actual venue generated by the Simulation room, but it was still as good as the real one.

Racing circuits were classified into four levels based on their difficulty, and the Infinite Eight Circuit was on the second level. Apart from being one of the longest tracks in all of unofficial drift racing leagues, it had a complex terrain that was filled with varying degrees of risks.

The Infinite Eight was named so because it had eight sections each shaped like the number 8, or the infinite sign,  $\infty$ , depending on the angle one looked at it. The first 4 infinity sections were on the mountain while the latter four were inside of the mountain. Because of the nature of the track, it was winding, filled with so many twists and turns. What's more, there were sections that intersected with one another, which meant that those in the lead could cross paths with those at the bottom.

This added a thrill to the circuit and made it dangerous for drivers since they drove at very high speeds and needed to be careful of incoming traffic.

\*Viuuu\*

A racing shuttle sped across the tracks, moving stably yet quickly. It was the Viper racing shuttle and inside of it was the Versoa team's driver, Mason Cloud. Closely behind him was another Viper racing shuttle, but steering it was a Racer; a dedicated robot designed to be able to drive racing shuttles and act as training partners for professional drivers.

The group—including Lucas and Lerman's department—had only twenty hours to work with. However, twenty hours inside the Simulation room was equivalent to four days and four hours.

The first day was spent with Mason driving around the simulated track and getting used to it. The second day was still the same but it was occasionally mixed with Mason trying out other tracks to improve his cognitive and reflexive abilities.

On the third day, which was actually just nine hour hours and ten minutes from when Lucas left the Versoa Team Co's building, Lerman and his department were done assembling the new Viper. Under Lucas' instructions, they installed the Destroyer engine into it and sent a Racer, along with the racing shuttle, to the Heavenly Demonic shop. Although Lerman had questions, he didn't ask them.

Using these new resources, Mason's training was raised up a notch as he now had an opponent to compete against.

Compared to the Racer used during Lucas and Orvel's bet, the one Mason was up against was a more advanced and rapid learner. Just after one lap, it had mastered the complicated Infinite Eight Circuit, becoming a difficult opponent for Mason to handle. If it wasn't for the two days worth of private training, Mason might not have been able to keep up. This couldn't be helped after all, he wasn't used to driving in such complex circuits.

On the fourth day, when there was just five hours and thirty six minutes until the twenty hours of training was up, Lucas had completed renovations on the Viper engine. All this while, he has been working on the main vehicle and had Mason train with the backup. Although it was a backup, it had been upgraded along with the main Viper after Lucas became department head.

However, the main Viper racing shuttle had now been further improved by Lucas relying on the Employee Hire Function. As there was still time, Mason swapped the secondary Viper racing shuttle for the main one to get used to the new changes.

When the training was finally done with, there was only two hours left until the start of the race. The initial time from the beginning of the preparations to the race's start was twenty six hours. But Lucas slotted twenty hours for training and four hours for break, because continuous usage of the simulation room might do more harm than help.

Now that the full twenty four hours were gone, they needed to make their way to the venue of the race which was in a province twenty minutes away using a Light-rail train.

"How are you feeling?"

Lucas glanced at Mason who recently exited the simulation room for the last time.

"Tired, stressed, helpless." Mason sighed before clasping his fists tightly.

"But I'm confident about the race."

Although it was thanks to a time acceleration cheat, Mason had still spent four days driving the same circuit. He could be said to have gained a mastery over it. Although it wasn't enough to win first place, this was enough to make him a stronger contender for first ten spots.

"That's good." Lucas replied before leaving him to rest. He had already done his best to save the team and the rest was for them.

If it didn't work out, there was nothing else Lucas could do.

After a few minutes of rounding up, the three racing shuttles were moved into a carrier shuttle and sent to the destination of the race, the real Infinite Eight Circuit. Lucas, Mason, and Melissa also hitched a ride on the vessel to get there.

By the time they had arrived, there was an hour or so left until the start of the race. They were barely just in time for the pre-registration.

Mason went on to prepare while Lucas and the rest decided to go take their seats in the stands.

"Oh, would you look who it is."

Coincidentally, sitting beside the trio was an acquaintance of Vienna; the owner of a drift racing team just like her.

The unofficial drift racing leagues were the "playgrounds" of the younger generation of rich families, as such, most of the owners of these teams were young adults or even teenagers. Once they grew older, they would hand control over to their children. It was a practice for most of the older teams, while the newer teams were formed by youngsters.

The reason for this was because the unofficial drift racing leagues were seen as playgrounds for "children" and less classy, whilst the official drift leagues were for the grown-ups. It was similar to the difference between underground street racing and the F1 racing tournament back on Earth; where one was seen as a sport/entertainment for the elites by many.

The young man currently controlled a top tier drift racing team that had previously appeared in the only existing first tier league, the Exo Rally. From this, one could see how impressive the team was. However, it had fallen from grace.

In truth, the team the young man was in charge of was founded by his father and he simply inherited it. At the start of his "reign", newer and stronger competitors arrived in the Exo rally and he was unable to hold his spot there, getting relegated the following season after his succession.

It has been three years since then, and the young man's team has struggled for four seasons in the second tier leagues, achieving promotion once into the Exo Rally during the first year's second season, but being demoted the next season after appearing at the bottom of the table.

Since then, it became difficult to qualify back to the top.

However, this season, they were poised for the win, appearing in the top 4 in the Nadire Underground League at the moment.

"Is your seat over here? That's nice. A beauty by my side; we would definitely be the winning side today." The young man guffawed.

"Shouldn't you be focused on your team, Yovahn?" Vienna said coldly, not even bothering to glance at him.

"Hehe. You don't need to worry. We just need to perform at the same standards as we've always had to." Yovahn grinned.

Only the top 2 could qualify for the Exo Rally, but based on a team's performance, they can become a lucky third.

The rule of the lucky third was introduced in a few select top second tier leagues. It is a rule that allowed a third team to qualify, based on their performance in the last three seasons. As long as

they weren't promoted to the Exo Rally during those three seasons, they could qualify to become the "lucky third" promoted team.

In the last three seasons, Yovahn's team had taken third place twice and fourth place once, making them the only non-promoted team with the best record in the league. In other words, they were the best performing team right after the first and second place. As long as they took third place this time around, they would qualify on the lucky third rule even if they didn't make it to second or first.