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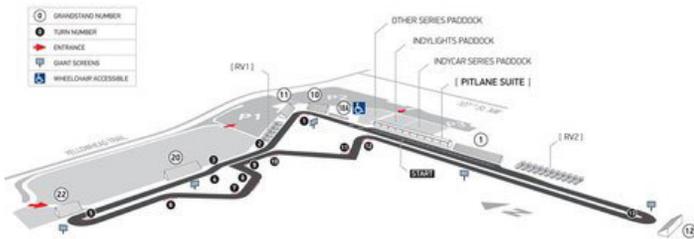
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Breaking News: Edmonton's New Track Released!

Posted by dylanpt24



The new Edmonton Indycar circuit was released earlier today! The new track will be a 2.256 mile track with 13 turns, compared to the old 1.96 mile track that was 14 turns long, and featured little to no passing. The track is still on the airport, but will now be run on the East runway, due to the fact that the runway has been closed down. The track was designed by Tony Cotman, who's also overseeing the 2012 Indycar new car, and his company NZR Consulting, which also designed the Sao Paulo street course in Brazil.



My first impression of the track? Excellent, and it's a view shared by many of the Indycar fans on twitter. The track is longer than the original, and has less turns, which is a combination that's usually good. More importantly, it includes what looks like a nice long front stretch, and manages to avoid "Tilke Syndrome!" The track looks really, really good. We'll have to see what it looks like in real life, but so far, it looks like there will be plenty of passing zones. Airport circuits (RE: Cleveland) are generally considered good race tracks, but unfortunately, Edmonton's been an exception to that rule. But now, with Watkins Glen out of the picture, and no Road America/Road Atlanta/Sebring/Montreal on the schedule, this track could very likely

be the best road/street race of the Indycar season, assuming it can overcome the other Cotman Track, Sao Paulo.

Tony Cotman deserves massive credit for focusing on improving the racing when designing the track. This quote says it all, "One of the big things we needed to focus on with this course was how to make the show better, and I think we've achieved that. There were restrictions relating to the airport but I think we can create a much better actual racetrack for racing on and obviously that's what people come to see. It will be better." Wow... focusing on the fans and the on track racing, what a novel concept! Herman Tilke, are you listening?!?!?! All I can say is this, F1 needs to use Cotman to cure their tracks of "Tilke Syndrome", because so far, Cotman's doing a good job building street courses were an actual pass might happen on. Unlike say, Valencia and Singapore. And caring about the show? I don't think Herman Tilke even knows what those words mean. I still am not a fan of the idea of another street course in Brazil, but, at least if it happens, NZR will be it's designer, so it should be a decent track, and for a street course ,that's high praise.



I was not excited to see Edmonton be saved earlier this year. It's not been a good race in the past few years, and I felt that it's death was an opportunity for the series to move somewhere better (which means just about anywhere). However... it turns out the rebirth of Edmonton was a positive, as it's led to a very interesting new track layout. Even if the 2011 race isn't that great... when new cars arrive in 2012, that are better road racers... it should be one of the better road races on the schedule (best possibly, pending on Road America/Sebring/Watkins Glen). I said earlier that I hoped this track would imitate Sebring, and with this layout, we might just have seen the birth of the Sebring of the North (I've called that term). We won't know for sure until July, but I'm looking forward to Edmonton, which prior to today, I would never have said.