

Sports

On the right track

Speedway gets a passing grade

BY HERB GOULD
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Other than the usual concerns about a new track surface being too slippery, the Chicago Motor Speedway received a ringing endorsement Thursday from drivers testing it for the first time.

"I think it's going to be a fun track," Team Kool Green driver Dario Franchitti said after the first practice sessions were worked in around intermittent rain. "Our biggest problem is the slickness of the track. But once you start getting some miles in, some rubber down, I think it will be a lot better."

The drivers who will run Sunday in the inaugural Target Grand Prix (2 p.m.; Ch. 7 tape delay at 3 p.m.) will have another practice today to lay down some rubber and prepare for Saturday's qualifying.

"It's a great facility; the people at CMS have done a great job," Target/Ganassi driver Jimmy Vasser said. "The best one-mile oval? That's hard to say. Maybe this will

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■ The Chicago area has had a rich history in racing. Pages 142-143.

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