

The Little Pilot That Could
by Ariana Deschain

The racing world has a new up-and-coming young pilot on Beylix. Miss Tyla Skymark wowed everyone with her almost record-setting qualifying laps in preparation for the Triple S this coming weekend. She has caused quite a stir among the fans and pilots alike, with opinions growing heated on whether we are witnessing the first glimmers of a new rising star.

I spoke to Miss Skymark at her modest hotel following her qualification. Surrounded by her earnest but meager crew, Miss Skymark displays a shy, Bambi-esque naivete so rarely seen in this younger generation of firebrand, go-getter, hotshot pilots. Coming from a nowhere part of the Rim, she tells the saccharine tale of a young girl learning the flight stick at the knee of a crippled father just trying to carry on his name while sending most of her paycheck back to support her parents.

Paychecks given to her by the same person who provided the entry fee, the captain of a mid-bulk transport which, much like Miss Skymark herself, hasn't been on the radar for very long. It seems like the pilot isn't the only one trying to make a big splash from out of nowhere. But the mastermind behind all these dramatics seems to be the pilot's manager, a man whose face could tell tales with close ties to casinos on Santo – casinos which have quietly begun shorting odds on our up and comer.

So what do all these people know that the rest of us don't? A brand-new pilot with an impressive qualifying run could herald the start of a new phenomenon, or just as easily fade into the background when confronted with the harsh realities of racing. Not unlike so many other upstarts having little to draw upon but scraped together funds and their own desperate hopes. Only after the big day will anyone know for sure.