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Questions, call Greg: 224-0005 or Andy: 574-8859

VIRTUAL DOMAINS

Marvel vs. Capcom
 System: Playstation
 Genre: Fighting
 Developer: Capcom

If anyone has played a Capcom fighting game in the past decade, then they have played Marvel vs. Capcom. The roots for this game were planted long ago with games like Street Fighter II and not much has changed since then.

After what seems like the 37th spin-off of the Street Fighter game, Street Fighter II EX Alpha Beta 2000: Turbo Edition, avid players knew to not turn to Capcom for originality. However, the reason people still play any new 2-D Capcom fighter is not for a new game engine, but to see what characters and animation have been added.

Marvel vs. Capcom takes characters from classic video games, such as Mega Man, and integrates them with players from the Marvel Comics Universe, while throwing in a few Street Fighter II characters for good measure.

The format lets the player pick a team of two characters. However, only one of them is the primary fighter. The player's second choice of characters is only there to help out with combo moves, unlike the arcade version that allows you to switch characters during game play. This is probably one of the game's biggest drawbacks, especially to players who have seen how cool this is in the arcade version.

Another drawback is the lack of characters to choose from as primary fighters. Most of the new characters unique to this game are only available as secondary teammates.

The best aspect of this game probably only appeals to X-Men fans who will get a kick out of playing as the all-powerful Onslaught after beating the game. Marvel vs. Capcom is fun, but only if players understand in advance that the characters are new; the game is the same as its always been. (Grade: B-)

Lego Racers
 System: Playstation
 Genre: Racing
 Developer: High Voltage Software

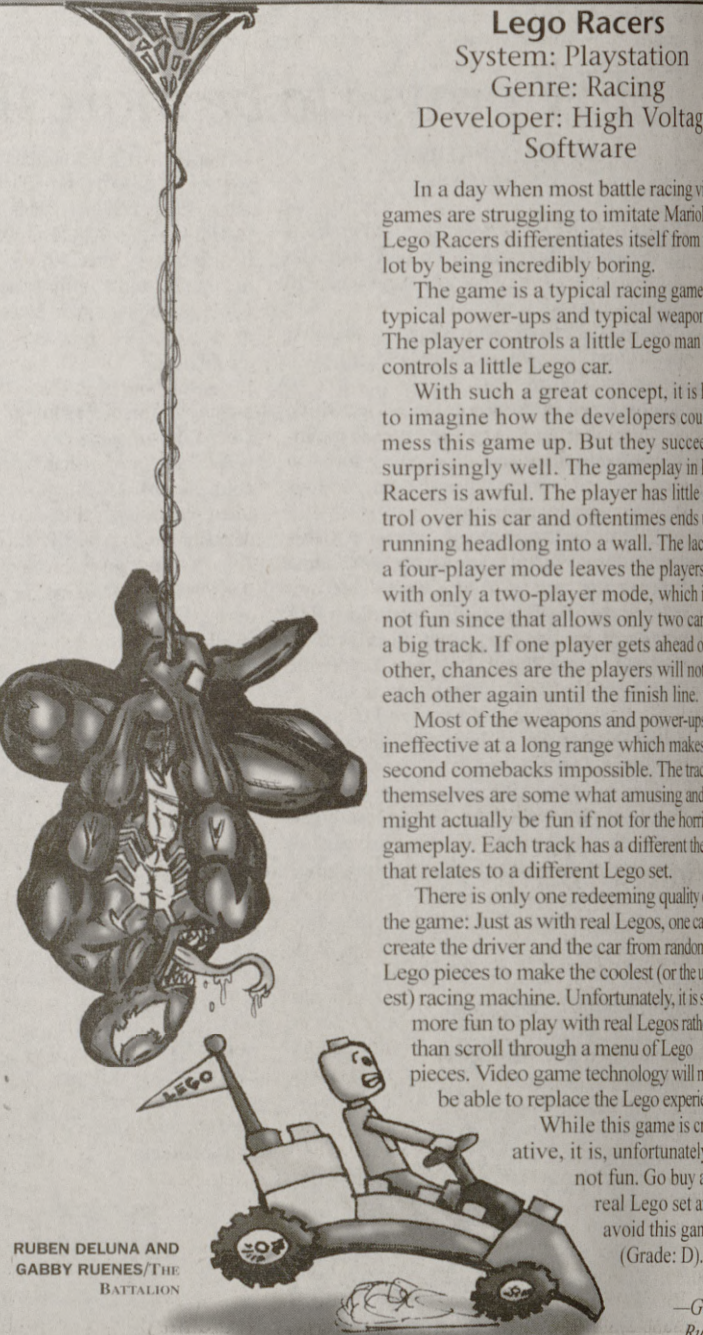
In a day when most battle racing video games are struggling to imitate Mario Kart, Lego Racers differentiates itself from the lot by being incredibly boring.

The game is a typical racing game with typical power-ups and typical weapons. The player controls a little Lego man who controls a little Lego car.

With such a great concept, it is hard to imagine how the developers could mess this game up. But they succeeded surprisingly well. The gameplay in Lego Racers is awful. The player has little control over his car and oftentimes ends up running headlong into a wall. The lack of a four-player mode leaves the players with only a two-player mode, which is not fun since that allows only two cars on a big track. If one player gets ahead of the other, chances are the players will not see each other again until the finish line.

Most of the weapons and power-ups are ineffective at a long range which makes second comebacks impossible. The tracks themselves are some what amusing and might actually be fun if not for the horrid gameplay. Each track has a different theme that relates to a different Lego set.

There is only one redeeming quality of the game: Just as with real Legos, one can create the driver and the car from random Lego pieces to make the coolest (or the ugliest) racing machine. Unfortunately, it is still more fun to play with real Legos rather than scroll through a menu of Lego pieces. Video game technology will never be able to replace the Lego experience. While this game is creative, it is, unfortunately, not fun. Go buy a real Lego set and avoid this game. (Grade: D).



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