

# NEWS RELEASE



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**Contact:**

Tonita Perry  
Eaddy Perry & Associates, Inc.  
704-965-6956  
tperry@eaddyperry.com  
for Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Kragen O'Reilly NHRA Winternationals  
Pomona, Calif.  
Advance***

## **TEAM HAMMONDS 2009 NHRA SEASON START DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS SEASONS**

***(HOLT, Fla., Feb. 4, 2009)*** - - Team Hammonds is coming off of a promising start at the fourth annual Las Vegas Showdown at The Strip at Las Vegas Speedway, where they made it to the semi-final round, and as a result, Tom Hammonds, owner/driver of the No.20 Race for Achievement Chevy Cobalt, feels they are on the right track to make some noise at the start of the 2009 NHRA Full Throttle Pro Stock season in Pomona, Calif. tomorrow.

"We had a great start this past weekend in Las Vegas in competition and testing. I feel strongly we can finish in the top 10," said a hyped Hammonds. "Of course everyone says that every year, but for us, this year, we have the engines and personnel, which is key, to do it."

Hammonds came to the realization that he was trying to do everything which perhaps played a major role in a not so good showing last season. The team competed in 13 race events and qualified only once. In hindsight, he knows that it is impossible for any team to be successful when one person is making the calls on the car and driving.

With the addition of a brand new chassis and former Pro Stock European Champion and successful Crew Chief Tom Laine, Hammond is excited about this weekend's competition. The

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599 Armistead Boulevard ▪ Holt, Florida 32564 ▪ 850-537-2021 ▪ FAX 850-537-2023  
[www.tomhammondsracing.com](http://www.tomhammondsracing.com)

number one goal at the Kragen O'Reilly NHRA Winternationals is to qualify, and to qualify, according to the crew chief's call is to win rounds with the best that you have.

Laine said, "The Las Vegas Showdown was used to get to our performance level to what it needs to be so that we can qualify at the first race. That is our goal for Pomona, [Cali.] and the season. We used that time to find the best combination, the best tires, the best carburetors, and the best of everything so we can be competitive."

"The car is brand new and only has a few runs on it. So, we want to work on every aspect of the car so we can get to the 60-foot and the 330 the way we would like. We were not trying to set the world on fire in Vegas; we just wanted to find the right combination going into Pomona, [Calf.]."

Set their world on fire is what they did by the team's standards, which gets them many steps closer to a showing that will be satisfactory to Team Hammonds to start the season and hopefully continue throughout.

"I really, really feel good about this season and our team! No looking back, we are ready to race this weekend," admits a smiling, competitive Hammonds.

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**About Tom Hammonds and Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC (THE)**

Racing since the age of 16, Chevrolet backed Tom Hammonds made a triumphant return to full-time drag racing at the Gatornationals Gainesville Raceway in March 2007. He is the only African American owner (Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC) and driver of a race team in professional motor sports. Previous owner of a Chevrolet dealership, Hammonds was drafted 9th overall in the 1989 NBA draft and enjoyed his career with Washington, Denver, Charlotte, and Minnesota, where he completed his career. Before his illustrious NBA career, he played college basketball at Georgia Tech, where his jersey was retired for being the fourth all time leading scorer and received a bachelors of science in business management. A native of Crestview, Fla., he was inducted into the All Sports Association Hall of Fame of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. in March 2007.

Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC (THE) is located in Holt, Fla. and was formed in 2005. THE takes pride in promoting high performance and safety in the sport of drag racing. Housing such programs as Tom Hammonds Engines, a program specifically for performance drivers to rent custom built engines, and Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement, a school program dedicated to revving the engines of education through student achievement, the company's mission is to make an impact on the sport of drag racing. THE is the only African American owned and driven team in professional motor sports. For more information, visit [www.tomhammondsracing.com](http://www.tomhammondsracing.com).