

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona NHRA Nationals
Phoenix Advance

TEAM HAMMONDS SETS OUT TO QUALIFY AGAIN AT ARIZONIA NHRA NATIONALS

(HOLT, Fla., Feb. 19, 2009) --Team Hammonds gears up for its fourth career appearance at the Arizona NHRA Nationals in Phoenix after qualifying for the first round of eliminations at the NHRA Winternationals in Pomona, Calif. The team is looking forward to advancing even further in this weekend's competition.

"In Pomona, [Calif.] the conditions were so, so different than what we normally race, and the track was really marginal," explains Team Hammonds Crew Chief Tomi Laine. "Unfortunately, we were one of those cars that did not get down the track, and I am really disappointed about that. But, on the other hand I see a lot of potential, and we accomplished our goal of qualifying at the Winternationals."

Plagued with inclement weather for five straight days in Pomona, Calif., competitors manage to get in only one qualifying run, where Team Hammonds (6.682 sec. e.t. at 206.20 mph) qualified 14th in the field to make it to eliminations. Usual Sunday eliminations took place on Tuesday under cold track conditions, where the Race for Achievement Chevy Cobalt was not able to get down the track, knocking them out in the first round.

"Though Tom did an excellent job with driving our car, it was really hard for me to make decisions due to the weather and track conditions in Pomona, [Calif.]; we just did not have the data. But, going into Phoenix, I am hoping it will be more like a normal deal."

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Laine is hopeful the rain will stay away so their Chevy Cobalt can run all four qualifying sessions. He is confident he has enough base data to set-up the car to be fast enough to qualify in top half granted weather and track conditions are good. Laine plans to start at base and get more aggressive for each qualifying round. With this plan, he knows Team Hammonds will be able to show what they can do and hopefully end up with a win.

“We are on schedule and are making progress, and, again, there is a lot of potential - not even close to where we can be. Our Chevy Cobalt can really run a lot faster, and I can't wait to show it in Phoenix.”

Competition kicks off on Friday, Feb. 20, with the first two rounds of qualifying at the Firebird International Raceway. Check local listing for viewing on ESPN2.

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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.