

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

Arizona NHRA Nationals
Phoenix Day 2 Recap

TEAM HAMMONDS TWO-FOR-TWO IN QUALIFYING FOR ELIMINATION COMPETITION

(PHOENIX, Feb. 21, 2009) -- A far cry from the start of last season, Team Hammonds is two-for-two in qualifying for elimination Sunday. Today they secured the 12 spot at the Arizona NHRA Nationals going into tomorrow's competition.

Making two runs, Driver Tom Hammonds faced Johnny Gray (7.148 sec/154.81 mph) in the first qualifying round where he experienced transmission trouble causing him to abort the run, but still managing to register an elapsed time of 7.025 sec. at 157.06 mph. The second run, now experiencing clutch issues, allowed the team to somewhat recover recording an improved e.t. of 6.703 sec. at 206.80 mph against Larry Morgan (6.662 sec/206.73 mph).

Team Hammonds Crew Chief Tomi Laine says the team is not exactly performing as he had planned, but he is pleased they will be racing tomorrow. He explains, "For the third qualifying run, the track conditions were very fast. The transmission would not go into fifth gear; therefore, we had to abort the run. This last run we had some clutch issues, with both problems hurting us a little bit. We could not improve elapsed time the way we wanted today."

"Overall, we did get some data. So, we will go through the data, make chassis adjustments, move the balance of the car, and some other small adjustments to come up with the right combination for tomorrow." Laine feels if the No. 20 Chevy Cobalt can get down the track well they will have a chance to win a round, which is their major strategy for tomorrow. He feels with the proper adjustments the Chevy Cobalt is can be expected to have the speed it needs to perform well.

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The e.t of 6.658 sec. at 207.59 recorded yesterday in qualifying round two allowed Team Hammonds to hold the 12th slot going into eliminations where Hammonds will face Jason Line (6.638 sec/ 208.71 mph) in the first round.

Elimination competition takes place at the Firebird International Speedway. Check local listings for viewing times 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.