

NEWS RELEASE



Mar. 21, 2008

Contact:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL TOM HAMMONDS RACE FOR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM KICKS-OFF IN HOUSTON

(HOLT, Fla., Mar. 21, 2008) --Tom Hammonds, NHRA Pro Stock Car driver/owner and retired NBA player, will kick off his new national student achievement program, **Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement**, on Wednesday, Mar. 26, at 2:00 p.m. CST at The Imani School in Houston.

"This program is a dream that has come true, and I am extremely excited about the chance to share my message about academic excellence with the kids," says an elated Hammonds, "and to kick it off at The Imani School is icing on the cake."

Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement will allow Hammonds to interact with students through message. The Imani School students will participate in an assembly where he will speak about the importance of education, sportsmanship, and leadership. Students will also get a chance to view the NHRA Pro Stock Chevrolet Cobalt and team transporter.

During the assembly, Hammonds and The Imani School will be presented with a proclamation declaring it Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement Day in the city of Houston. Fifty students meeting set criteria will be chosen to receive an O'Reilly Auto Parts® Race Pack, filled with goodies supplied by program supporters (GM, Goodyear, and MacTools®) and Tom Hammonds, two tickets to Friday's race, and one student out of the 50 will be chosen to serve as an honorary crew member at the race.

-MORE-

Page - 2 – Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement

Per the teachers' and administration's recommendation, these 50 students' participation is based on maintaining a "B" average, good behavior, and no suspensions and/or unexcused absences.

The Imani School was chosen based on its dedication to student achievement in the areas of math and science. Opening its doors in August 1988, The Imani School is a private, Christian school for students from preschool through eighth grade and has rapidly gained a reputation for academic excellence. Students score above national median in reading and math and have received numerous national awards year after year in the National NOBCChe Academic and Science Quiz Bowl and ACSI Math and Speech competitions. They hold the boys and girls WHCAC Conference Track & Field Championship title, the boys WHCAC Basketball Championship title (second consecutive year), and the cheerleading squad placed in the top three in three state competitions.

The Imani School is the first school to participate in the program, with six schools around the country to follow in the race markets of Madison, Ill., Topeka, Kan., Bristol, Tenn., Dallas, Memphis, Tenn., and Indianapolis.

"O'Reilly is very excited to be associated with such a great program. Tom Hammonds has proven to be a great role model for kids, and this program is sure to be a great success," said Wes Wise director of advertising, marketing and motorsports, O'Reilly Auto Parts®.

According to an achievement study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics, changing students' behavior toward education through positive exposure encourages higher achievement in the areas of reading, math, and science. Over time, positive student behavior toward education translates into the decrease of school dropout rate, an increase of college attendance, and sustaining economic contributions to society through employment as adults.

"We applaud teams, like Tom Hammonds, who take the initiative to educate students on the need to stay in school, and the importance of sportsmanship and leadership," said Gary Darcy, senior vice president of sales and marketing, NHRA.

Along with the NHRA, the program is supported by Chevrolet, O'Reilly Auto Parts®, MAC Tools, and Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

"Chevrolet has been proud to have been associated with Tom for several years, and now with his Race for Achievement program, he's shown once again that he is truly a Professional racer and team owner. We're sure that his program will positively touch many hundreds of students all over the country," said Fred Simmonds, GM's drag racing marketing manager.

Hammonds and Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC is dedicated to rewarding students for their achievement in the classroom. By doing so it builds positive behavior towards education, self-esteem and confidence that build strong students and ultimately good citizens. Overall, the program sees itself as being a part of the community team and will always be a voice for progress in student achievement. To date, Hammonds has had the pleasure of speaking to many students encouraging them to stay in school, and while in school, be the best student they can be.

About Tom Hammonds

As an achiever in his own right and 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.

**For onsite coverage, please contact
Tonita Perry, 704-965-6956, tperry@eaddyperry.com.**