

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

O'Reilly NHRA Spring Nationals
Houston Advance

TEAM HAMMONDS LOOKING TO GET BACK ON QUALIFYING STREAK

(HOLT, Fla., Mar. 26, 2009) -- Team Hammonds unfortunately did not qualify at NHRA Gatornationals, but is looking to get back on their qualifying streak this weekend at the NHRA Spring Nationals in Houston.

"At Gatornationals, we were off on our set-ups and did not do well on the back half of the track due to some engine problems, which caused us not to qualify," explains Tomi Laine, Team Hammonds crew chief. "We were able to take care of what caused these problems and are looking forward to qualifying this weekend."

Not wavering from his goal of steady improvement with patience since the beginning of the season, Laine bases qualifying this weekend on getting better with each run. Set-ups will be baseline, while making adjustments after each run turning it up a notch. He is expecting slower times for qualifying on Friday due to the projected rainy weather and fast times for Saturday qualifying based on forecasted good weather.

Either way, the No. 20 Race for Achievement Chevy Cobalt has not lost its power, and Laine is preparing to showcase it.

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“With the data from last year’s race, combined with data from testing and results from the three races this season, I am confident we will have a shot at racing on Sunday. We need fast times in the top half and will work at it by respecting the track.”

Team Hammonds qualifying record is 2-1 at NHRA Spring Nationals, with its best showing in 2002 where they finished in seventh place of the qualifying field, but lost against Kurt Johnson in the first round of eliminations. Last year, the team just missed qualifying finishing in 17th place.

NHRA Pro Stock qualifying begins on Friday, Mar. 27, with two sessions, at the Houston Raceway in Baytown, TX.

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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 on the NHRA circuit. 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 on the NHRA circuit. For more information, visit www.tomhammondsracing.com.