

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

O'Reilly NHRA Spring Nationals
Houston Day 1 Recap

TEAM HAMMONDS STARTS WITH PROMISE DESPITE WEATHER

(Baytown, Texas, Mar. 27, 2009) -- Inclement weather was inevitable at the NHRA Spring Nationals, but Team Hammonds started with promise at the NHRA Spring Nationals holding the 10th qualifying spot in a 24-car field after only one qualifying run.

In the only round of qualifying, Team Hammonds had a solid pass on the quarter round, running an elapsed time of 6.170 seconds at 205.54 mph against Steve Spiess (e.t. 6.752 sec./205.47).

"We set-up the car pretty soft because we have been having troubles of being too aggressive," explains Tomi Laine, Team Hammonds crew chief. "Basically, the whole idea today was to just get ready for tomorrow because the air is going to be a lot cooler and faster."

"I was actually hoping to get that second run in but everything got delayed [due to weather.] But I feel pretty good! We were a little conservative, but the car ran pretty nice and was looking fast."

Laine feels the No. 20 Chevy Cobalt has power and is on the right track for tomorrow. The team will not start off as conservative as they did today, because the air will be cooler producing faster times and speeds. They want to make a nice run tomorrow in the third qualifying session so that they may be able to try something new with set-ups for the fourth qualifying run.

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“Everyone did a good job for Tom on his birthday. We need to be on our game tomorrow. It will be much faster tomorrow, and we can qualify good.”

Pro Stock qualifying begins at 11:00 AM at the Houston Raceway in Baytown, Texas.

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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.