

# NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

O'Reilly NHRA Spring Nationals  
***Houston FINAL Recap***

## **TEAM HAMMONDS REPEATS ELIMINATION ROUND ONE PHOENIX RESULT AT NHRA SPRING NATIONALS**

**(BAYTOWN, TEXAS, Mar. 29, 2009)** – Team Hammonds repeated their Phoenix performance in the first round of eliminations today at the O'Reilly NHRA Spring Nationals at Houston Raceway Park, losing to Jason Line due to a red lighting.

"I am definitely disappointed about losing, more so by red lighting," said Tom Hammonds, owner and driver of the No. 20 Race for Achievement Chevy Cobalt presented by US Marines. "The big thing is that we did the same thing in Phoenix against Jason."

"In Phoenix, I thought I saw the yellow light and let the clutch out, and here, I knew I saw the yellow light, let the clutch out. I know that I am not up there guessing, so the best thing we can do now is to slow the [clutch] linkage down."

Crew Chief Tomi Laine agrees they will have to work on the clutch linkage, since Hammonds' patterns are consistent and this being the second red light result. It is just a matter of getting solid set-ups and procedures to match his patterns. Laine is assured Hammonds can cut good lights once this is done.

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Overall, he was please with the way the car performed in elimination round one registering a career best speed of 210.18 mph.

Laine said, "We stayed late last night to make major changes on the car from bumper to bumper because we were not happy at all the way it was performing during qualifying. This is a tricky track to get down and run fast, and I knew what the car needed to do both. We made a nice run. Unfortunately, we got the red light on the run, giving it to Jason Line."

"It's racing, and we definitely made a big improvement. I am happy about the way the car looked and performed today."

Hammonds is excited about running his career best and felt it was a pretty good run also. He hates it was wasted on a red light, but he knows he will be ready for competition in Las Vegas next weekend.

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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](http://www.tomhammondsracing.com).