

# NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals  
***Las Vegas Advance***

## **TEAM HAMMONDS HOPES TO WIN IN LAS VEGAS**

***(HOLT, Fla., Apr. 2, 2009)*** - - Team Hammonds had a good showing at NHRA Spring Nationals in Houston, qualifying on the bump, only to red light, and was able to run a career best speed of 210.18 mph. They are hoping these results are the makings for a great showing this weekend at the SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals in Las Vegas.

"We did well in Houston! Carrying over to Las Vegas, my crew has a good baseline there for the race, because we ran the Pro Stock Showdown in the preseason. So, I am looking forward to a good race," said Tom Hammonds, driver and owner of the No. 20 Race for Achievement Chevy Cobalt.

History shows that Team Hammonds' engines perform well in Las Vegas. Last year, Kenny Koretsky was able to qualify first on the pole running a engine from Ton Hammonds Enterprises, LLC, and in preseason competition this year, Team Hammonds made it to the semi-final round of eliminations at the Las Vegas Pro Stock Showdown. For the upcoming race, their concern is making sure set-ups are what they need to be to have a good showing.

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Crew Chief Tomi Laine says he has the data to support his set-up choices and is confident they will have a good showing. He knows that he the Race for Achievement Chevy Cobalt has the power to pull out a win. Laine is hopeful the weather will be good to compliment his choices.

“Our motors really like the altitude in Las Vegas,” explains Laine, “and hopefully, weather permits, we will run good so that we can qualify in the top half to get lane choice.” He goes on to say he will not make any major changes to the Race for Achievement car at this time, because there were major changes made in Houston, which he wants to use as his base and build upon.

For the first Las Vegas race of the NHRA season, in 2002, Team Hammonds made it to competition on elimination Sunday in fifth place and lost in the second round. They failed to qualify in 2007 and 2008.

First round of qualifying begins on Friday, April. 3, at 12:30 PM PT at The Strip at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

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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).