

# NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TOM HAMMONDS RACE FOR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH BARTELSO ELEMENTARY**

**(HOLT, Fla., Apr. 30, 2008)** --Tom Hammonds, NHRA Pro Stock Car driver/owner and retired NBA player, will take his national school program, **Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement**, to Bartelso Elementary School in Bartelso, Ill., on Thursday, May 1, at 9:00 a.m. CST in conjunction with the O'Reilly NHRA Midwest Nationals.

"I am looking forward to speaking to the students at Bartelso Elementary on Thursday," says Hammonds. "It is always good to be fired-up about education, and I know, as a result of the students' state performance record, Bartelso Elementary is fired-up about achievement."

**Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement** allows Hammonds to interact with students through message. The Bartelso Elementary School students will participate in an assembly where he will speak about the importance of education, sportsmanship, and leadership.

During the assembly, Hammonds and Bartelso Elementary School will be presented with a proclamation declaring it "Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement Day" in the city of Bartelso, Ill. Fifty students meeting set criteria will be chosen to receive two tickets to Friday's O'Reilly NHRA Midwest Nationals race at the Gateway International Raceway.

One student out of the 50 will be chosen to serve as an honorary crew member at the race. 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.

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Through the diligence of Carl Huels, owner of Carl's 4-Wheel Drive and Performance Center, and enthusiasm of Dr. Karen K. Zellmer, superintendent of Bartelso School District, the national the program will to partner with Bartelso Elementary School. Bartelso Elementary has 165 students in grades K-8. The classroom grades promote the latest educational trends such as problem solving techniques, engaged learning, and 'hands on' activities for its students. The school is equipped with an excellent technology lab that incorporates objectives and goals that are also implemented within each grade level.

Bartelso Elementary School is the second school to participate in the national program, with five schools to follow in the race markets of Topeka, Kan., Bristol, Tenn., Dallas, Memphis, Tenn., and Indianapolis.

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.

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### 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.