

# NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TOM HAMMONDS RACE FOR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM** **PARTNERS WITH VANCE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**(HOLT, Fla., May 12, 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 Vance Middle School in Bristol, Tenn., on Wednesday, May 14, at 12:45 p.m. EST in conjunction with O'Reilly NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals.

**Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement** allows Hammonds to interact with students through message. Vance Middle School students will participate in an assembly where he will speak about the importance of education, sportsmanship, and leadership. After the assembly, fifty students will view the NHRA Pro Stock Chevrolet Cobalt and transporter.

During the assembly, Hammonds and Vance Middle School will be presented with a proclamation declaring it "Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement Day" in the city of Bristol, Tenn. Fifty students meeting set criteria will be chosen to receive an O'Reilly Auto Parts® Race Pack, filled with goodies supplied by program supporters (GM, Goodyear, and MacTools®), Tom Hammonds Hero Card, and two tickets to Friday's O'Reilly NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals race at the Bristol Dragway.

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.

In its efforts to promote student achievement, Vance Middle School will implement a race program designed to give students the opportunity to use lessons in science and math to build a race car, which they will race in late

**-MORE-**

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September 2008 at the Bristol Dragway. Vance Middle is the third school to participate in the national program, with four schools to follow in the race markets of Dallas, Charlotte, N.C., 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.