

# NEWS RELEASE



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**Contact:**

Tonita Perry  
Eaddy Perry & Associates, Inc.  
704-965-6956  
tperry@eaddyperry.com  
for Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HAMMONDS TAKES TIME OFF FROM CIRCUIT TO REGROUP**

***-Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC seeks Primary Sponsor -***

***(HOLT, Fla., June 19, 2008)*** -- Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC (THE) announces it will take time off from racing on the NHRA Pro Stock circuit to regroup by seeking primary sponsorship and filling key team positions.

"We have decided to take a break because we need to regroup and get our priorities in order as far as our team is concerned," says Tom Hammonds, president and driver for THE. "Our number one priority right now, like every other team, is to look for primary sponsorship for our race team."

Team Hammonds has been operating without a primary sponsor for two seasons, and it has taken a toll on the team's performance. Without primary sponsorship, Hammonds was forced to concentrate on other primary duties, which compromised his performance on the track. He has qualified only twice this season.

"It is not easy at all when you have been doing as many things, such as serving as the crew chief and the marketing person at races, in addition to driving and owning the team, as I have been doing. It makes it tough on one person, but that is what we needed. This decision gives us a chance to maybe be in a position where we can find that sponsor who will allow us to bring in a capable crew chief and be a part of our race team for the present and beyond, while producing favorable and consistent results."

"My most successful year was in 2001, when I had a great primary sponsor and good crew chief, and my sole responsibility at the races was to pack the parachutes and drive the car, which resulted in two final

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rounds back to back, in Dallas and Las Vegas. While not at the races, I concentrated on business matters. We were competitive and only ran eight races for the season. So a direct correlation between having a primary sponsor and having key positions filled is important. I know this from experience.”

Hammonds feels that THE offers a top notch facility and organization both on and off the track that should attract sponsors. They have the THE’s Engine Program, which is a program that rents performance drivers custom built engines for competition. THE engine program rented engines to two drivers on the NHRA pro stock circuit this season. Both drivers qualified consistently with the engines, with one making it to the pole for the first time in his career. THE also started Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement, which is a program dedicated to rewarding middle school students for their achievement in the classroom, while building positive behavior towards education, self- esteem and confidence that build strong students and ultimately good citizens.

While drag racing is Hammonds’ profession, he keeps in mind it is a business. As the owner, he understands that he had to make this tough decision. He is financing the team solely from his personal money in which he has invested into THE.

“Drag racing is a professional sport just as basketball is a professional sport, and both are businesses. When I played professional basketball, my job was to play basketball, and I got paid to do it. While there were some decisions that team owners had to make for the business of basketball, I did not have to worry about those things. Now as owner and driver of a race team, my number one job is to go out, win races, and make sure we have the financial support to do what we need in order for the program to be successful. If you do not have the financial support to do this, then you have to take a step back and regroup until you do.”

“I do not think of this as a set back, but as something we have to do in order to move forward - take one step back to take two steps forward. With me being the only African American owner and driver in professional motorsports, combined with what we have going with our state of the art facility, engine program, and our achievement program, I would not think it would be very long before someone comes on board as a primary sponsor and then as crew chief.”

Hammonds’ goal is to be back on the track racing Labor Day weekend in Indianapolis, if not sooner.

For companies interested in being a primary sponsor for Tom Hammonds Racing, please contact Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC at 850-537-2021 or email, [partnerships@tomhammondsracing.com](mailto:partnerships@tomhammondsracing.com).

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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.

About Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC (THE)

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 in professional motor sports.