

NEWS RELEASE



Aug. 24, 2008

Contact:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*MacTools U.S. Nationals, Indianapolis
Race Advance*

TOM HAMMONDS ENTERPRISES, LLC BUILDS PREMIER ENGINE PROGRAM

-Comeback for Hammonds Looks Promising-

(HOLT, Fla., Aug. 24, 2008) – Though Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC (THE) took a small sabbatical from drag racing, the team never stopped working towards building a premier engine program. The results of the NitroFish car driven by Richie Sevens and powered by a THE engine for the Brainerd, Minn. and Reading, Penn. gives credence to that.

“Although we have not been at the race track competing for the last few events, we have really been working hard on our engine program,” said Tom Hammonds, owner/driver of THE.

Headed by 30-year engine builder Jim Oliver, THE’s engine program is in its second year, and this season has leased engines to Kenny Koretsky and Jim Yates, with both drivers resulting in qualifying.

“Up until the time we leased an engine to Koretsky in Las Vegas this season, we did not know where our program was,” explains Oliver. “All we had was an engine dyno, which gives you a number, and it’s just a number unless we had one of the top players’ engines on the same machine. We can say wow their engine is 30 horsepower better than ours, but until then we just had a number.”

-MORE-

599 Armistead Boulevard ▪ Holt, Florida 32564 ▪ 850-537-2021 ▪ FAX 850-537-2023
www.tomhammondsracing.com

Oliver goes on to explain that it was not until they leased THE's number two engine to Koretsky, resulting in him being the number one qualifier, and Hammonds not qualifying in Las Vegas, that they were really able to gauge their engine program. That validated that THE's engines possessed the amount of horsepower needed to be quick and fast.

In a short period of time, THE's engine program has come a long way, and is still working to make the best engine ultimately for Hammonds. They have improved the valve train, which is the primary component that has improved over the past 10 years. Yet, if they were to take their best engine of today as opposed to the engine Hammonds had in 1998 and disassembled both of them on a bench, there would be very little difference to the untrained eye. There have been subtle changes over the years. The score board really tells the difference, obviously in the car running quicker and faster.

"The future of our engine program is not to rent to every pro stock driver that wants an engine," said Hammonds. "We are looking to partner with another team that will also bring the research and development element that is needed to continue to improve our product for competition."

Hammonds is looking forward to trying his engine improvements in his first race back at the MacTools US Nationals at O'Reilly Raceway Park in Indianapolis. He believes this will show that his team is working to be a force for the second half of the season. The team is on its way to possessing what he believes are the three components to a good race team – a good crew and car, a good driver, and a good engine program.

"I think we have everything, and I'm eager to show it in our first race back," said Hammonds, who took a break from racing on the NHRA Pro Stock circuit in June of this season to regroup the team.

Though Hammonds has failed to be consistent with performance on the track, Oliver is confident in the engine for the comeback race, but has reservations about the car.

"Tom's Chevy Cobalt might be good. We made a lot of changes," comments Oliver, "but it is inherently slow."

Oliver feels there are so many variables to the Chevy Cobalt, and the car is the key, along with the crew surrounding it. The car is infinitely adjustable. If the crew does not know how to make adjustments, then the car will look bad. A bad car also makes the engine look bad. In this case, Team Hammonds knows what to do and wants the engine to shine.

Hammonds makes his first qualifying run on Friday, August 29 at 5:15 p.m. EDT.

#

About Tom Hammonds

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

Page - 3 - Hammonds –US Nationals Race Advance

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.