



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Sept. 8, 2008

'Race for Achievement'

Pro Stock car driver encourages CMS students to study science, math and technology

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Sept. 8, 2008 – Nearly 500 seventh-grade students will join the Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement when NHRA Pro Stock car driver and team owner Tom Hammonds visits their school. Hammonds is taking his national school program to James Martin Middle School (7800 IBM Drive) on **Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 9 a.m.**

Hammonds is in Charlotte for the inaugural NHRA Carolinas Nationals, which is the first race at the new zMax Dragway at Lowe's Motor Speedway. He is partnering with James Martin Middle to encourage students to study science, math and technology. Hammonds will visit the school each time he is in the Charlotte area for races. During his first visit, he will address an assembly of seventh-graders about the importance of education, sportsmanship and leadership. After the assembly, students will view the NHRA Pro Stock Chevrolet Cobalt and transporter, which is similar to a fully stocked garage on wheels.

"I've always said this program is a dream that has come true, and I am extremely excited about the chance to share my message about academic excellence with the kids," said Hammonds. "The opportunity to speak to over 400 kids who may have an interest in pursuing motorsports in whatever capacity as a career path is outstanding. I am really looking forward to a great assembly, which will be the start to a long, productive partnership."

Hammonds has been racing cars since he was 16 years old. He is the only African-American owner and driver of a race team in professional motorsports. Hammonds was drafted ninth overall in the 1989 NBA draft and played in Washington, Denver and Charlotte before finishing his basketball career in Minnesota. He received a bachelor of science in business management from Georgia Tech, where he also played basketball. He was the fourth all-time leading scorer and his jersey was retired.

"We were fortunate enough to be adopted by Tom Hammonds," said James Martin Middle Principal Anna Renfro. "We are excited that our students can learn more about science, math and

--more--

Page Two: CMS students ‘Race for Achievement’

technology and how it could relate to careers in motorsports.”

During the assembly, Charlotte City Councilman Michael Barnes will declare “Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement Day” in Charlotte. Fifty students will receive an O’Reilly Auto Parts Race Pack filled with goodies supplied by program supporters GM, Goodyear, MacTools, and Coke, an autographed Tom Hammonds Hero Card, and two tickets to the Sept. 12 NHRA Carolinas Nationals race at the new zMax Dragway. Students may also enter an essay contest explaining why they should be on Hammonds’ crew. The winner will serve as an honorary crew member at Friday’s race.

James Martin Middle is the fourth school to participate in the national program.

###

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 motorsports. Previously the owner of a Chevrolet dealership, Hammonds was ninth 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.

For more information, please contact:

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

Cynthia Robbins
Media Relations Supervisor
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
980-343-1081
704-634-5136
cynthia.robbins@cms.k12.nc.us