

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona NHRA Nationals
Phoenix Day 1 Recap

TEAM HAMMONDS OFF TO GOOD START AT ARIZONA NHRA NATIONALS

(PHOENIX, Feb. 20, 2009) – Team Hammonds is off to a good start at the Arizona NHRA Nationals finishing the first day of qualifying in 10th place.

Good weather brought about fast conditions for the track all day. For the first round of qualifying the team registered an e.t. of 6.78 seconds at 206.67mph against Rickie Jones (14.684 sec/56.81mph), who failed to complete the run, placing them in 12th place in the 22-car field. After the second run where the team ran a better e.t of 6.658 at 207.59 mph against V Gaines (6.709 sec./205.54), they moved up two slots to carry the best time forward for tomorrow's two qualifying sessions.

"We just tried to run our lane and run the best possible run we can," explains Tom Hammonds, driver and owner of the No. 20 Race for Achievement Chevy Cobalt. "I was just more so glad that we made a step in the right direction, especially going into today's first run. We still have more left in our Race for Achievement Chevy Cobalt."

"We have to look at the data tonight and make some good decisions tomorrow morning. I am looking to improve and Tomi also feels there is room for improvement. So, he is going to decide and make the call for tomorrow."

Qualifying resumes tomorrow at noon P.T. at the Firebird International Speedway. Check local listings for viewing times on ESPN2.

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About Tom Hammonds and Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC (THE)

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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.

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. For more information, visit www.tomhammondsracing.com.