

# NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NHRA Gatornationals  
***Gainesville, Fla. Advance***

## **TEAM HAMMONDS READY TO PERFORM AT HOME TRACK**

***(HOLT, Fla., Mar. 12, 2009)*** - - History shows that Team Hammonds has always done well when racing at what is considered their home track, the Gainesville Raceway in Gainesville, Fla. This year, they are hoping it will be not different when they compete this weekend at the ACDelco NHRA Gatornationals.

"I am confident that we do have the power and the parts to do the job. It's all about making the right call at the right time to make nice runs," said Tomi Laine, Team Hammonds' crew chief.

Coming off of a loss in the first round of eliminations in Phoenix, the team is off to a good start overall, qualifying in Pomona, Calif. at the first race of the NHRA Pro Stock season giving them two Sunday opportunities. The season goal of being consistent in qualifying has definitely not fallen short, and in keeping with the goal, Laine seeks to keep the streak going by working through and improving in all four qualifying runs.

"It looks like the weather will be okay to run all four qualifying runs so that we can have a shot to race on Sunday. We want to make sure that we are at 110 percent."

The team was at only 90 percent, because of clutch problems they experienced in Phoenix. To bring that percentage up for this weekend's match-ups, they spent time rebuilding clutches, as well

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as trouble shooting all parts, to make sure their concentration at the track will be producing winning set-ups.

Laine said, "We were able to rebuild the clutches and test in Valdosta, [Ga.] in preparation for Gatornationals. We made sure the all the parts were in good working condition and tune-ups and set-ups are ready for racing."

Team Hammonds has made four appearances at Gatornationals. Qualifying twice, the team registered a career best elapsed time of 6.629 sec. and speed of 209.17 mph in 2007. Their first appearance in 2002, Team Hammonds qualified second on the pole going into eliminations, losing in elimination round two to 10<sup>th</sup> place Darrall Aderman.

Pro Stock qualifying begins tomorrow with two sessions at 11:30 AM ET and 2:30 PM ET at the Gainesville Raceway.

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

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.tomhammondsracing.com).