



Pit Notes

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Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg – Friday, April 3 through Sunday, April 5, 2009

3 Questions with the Indy Racing League's Terry Angstadt

Starting this week, we are beginning a weekly series asking those involved with the 2009 Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg three questions. This week, we chat with Terry Angstadt, IRL Commercial Division President.

1. What is the biggest challenges facing the Indy Racing League in 2009?

I think every business right now is trying to navigate through the current economic climate. But we feel the Indy Racing League is positioned best as a value proposition. We have an uncluttered environment and a lot to offer. We will grow in 2009 in the most challenging economic environment in 50 years.

2. What is different for 2009?

I think one of the biggest changes for 2009 is the schedule, as two races in Florida bookend the slate. For the first time ever, we'll start our season on the streets of St. Petersburg. It also will mark the **first time in history we've opened the IndyCar Series season on a street circuit**. We'll wrap up our championship in October under the lights at the 1.5-mile oval at Homestead-Miami Speedway. While we've made several changes to our schedule, we feel it still represents one most challenging and diverse in all of motorsports with its combination of short ovals, superspeedways, road courses and street circuits.

3. How/why St. Pete was chosen for the season opener?

We really emphasize speed, technology and innovation, diversity and green as our brand attributes. We feel this marketing direction and the positioning we've created over the last couple of years is a great fit and resonates with the St. Pete location. The fans in St. Pete have really embraced the sport. So it's a great fit and, again, we could not be more excited to kick it off in your beautiful community.

Next week's guest is Scott Atherton, CEO of the American Le Mans Series

EPA's Margo T. Oge Likes Motor Sports

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy held a press conference in Washington, D.C. recently and Margo T. Oge, Director of Transportation and Air Quality for the EPA, proved to be one of motor sports' biggest fans. "You know, when racing was first brought to me as an opportunity to expand our important message of sustainable energy, I said, 'Racing? Are you serious?'," said Oge. "But I now understand. The American Le Mans Series showcases how advanced technology can be sustained under very extreme conditions in racing and help to explain to consumers and the public how, if these technical advances in fuel efficiency and emissions can be successful under extreme driving conditions, then they can be equally successful for the morning commute."

ALMS and Michelin Team Up for Green Award

Michelin has entered into an environmentally-conscious partnership to entitle the American Le Mans Series' coveted Green Challenge award presented to race teams at each race. Beginning at the 2009 season opener in Sebring, two teams - one prototype and one GT - that demonstrate the best overall performance and fuel efficiency with the least environmental impact will win the MICHELIN® Green X® Challenge award.