

McDONALD'S DRIVER WILSON AND HOLE IN THE WALL CAMPS DRIVER RAHAL ATTEMPT TO BRING FIRESTONE THEIR 150TH SERIES VICTORY AT SUNDAY'S DETROIT INDY GRAND PRIX PRESENTED BY FIRESTONE; TEAM TO MAKE THEIR 14TH START IN DETROIT

DETROIT (August 27, 2008) --- Newman/Haas Racing competed in 13 CART events in Detroit from 1989 – 2001 and earned two victories, six poles and six podium finishes with drivers Mario and Michael Andretti, Nigel Mansell and Christian Fittipaldi. Renamed Newman/Haas/Lanigan Racing in 2007, the team hopes to add to their success on the 2.09-mile, 14-turn Raceway at Belle Isle street course for the Detroit Indy Grand Prix Presented by Firestone. McDonald's driver Justin Wilson and Hole in the Wall Camps driver Graham Rahal hope to add to the team's success in Detroit and also be the one to bring series tire supplier Firestone their 150th win in IndyCar Series competition.

"Obviously the team has been here in the past but that was many years ago and a lot has changed since then," said Wilson of the different racing package the team will use on the track for the first time as well as the fourth different track configuration* for the team since 1989. "I don't think there is a lot of information that will carry over so we will just have to work it out as we go along. We have been quick on all the road courses but they have not worked out in our favor yet, especially at Infineon last week where we were very competitive the whole weekend. I'm looking forward to getting back out there and working hard to get a good result for the McDonald's team."

The Detroit Indy Grand Prix will be the sixth IndyCar Series (ICS) race on a road/street course in 2008 and the seventh for NHLR and the teams transitioning from the Champ Car World Series. While the ICS was in Japan for Round 3, Champ Car held its finale on the streets of Long Beach, with points from each event being added to the ICS season total. In the only two street races so far this season Wilson has been competitive although the results don't reflect the team's progress. He earned the provisional pole on Friday and final pole on Saturday in Long Beach before his race ended on Lap 13 due to engine failure. In St. Petersburg, despite only 10 laps of testing on a road course in the Indy car, he qualified third but alternate pit strategies in a wet-then-dry race limited his finish to 9th place. He is hoping to add another podium to his third place finish on the temporary road course in Edmonton last month.

"I'm looking forward to getting back on a street circuit for the first time since Long Beach," said Wilson. "That weekend started good with a pole position for the McDonald's team but engine failure in the race ended our day pretty quickly. Racing on the streets of Belle Isle in Detroit should be fun and a challenge. Hopefully we will pick up where we left off with the Indy car in St. Petersburg where we had a very quick car even though it was our first street race with the different racing package. I'll have to learn a track again but it's nothing we aren't already used to this year. We'll get out and go for it."

Thirteen drivers entered in the Detroit Indy Grand Prix competed in last year's inaugural IndyCar Series event at the circuit. In addition, Bruno Junqueira and Oriol Servia started CART races here. While the track will be the 12th new course he will have competed on of 16 this season, Rahal believes the tight confines will suit his driving style.

"I think we will be competitive this weekend on the streets of Belle Isle," said Rahal. "We won the only other street course race the IndyCar Series held this year. From that perspective, we are going to Detroit with a little more confidence. We had a good car all weekend in St. Pete and hopefully we will be able to have the same in Detroit. It will certainly be challenging for us though. Penske has been pretty dominant on all of the road courses this year but we can close the gap to them, as well as the others, with a little

time. Obviously we haven't tested or raced on any street courses in the Indy car since our win in St. Pete so we will have to see how we stack up to the others and work to build on our setups from there."

Wilson is ranked 16 in the ICS point standings with 271, only 39 away from 10th place Ryan Hunter-Reay (310) while Rahal is 18th with 259. Scott Dixon, who has won six races this season, has a 43-point lead over Helio Castroneves heading into the penultimate points race of 2008. NHLR driver Sebastien Bourdais clinched his history-making fourth straight Champ Car title in 2007 at the penultimate race in Surfer's Paradise, Australia before he went on to match a series-high eight wins in one season in Mexico City.

This weekend's Detroit Indy Grand Prix Presented by Firestone can be seen on live on Sunday, August 24 at 3:30 p.m. EDT on ABC. The event will get underway with practice on Friday, qualifying on Saturday and the 90-lap race will begin at 3:30 p.m. EDT on Sunday. As always, fans can follow the action from every on-track session via the official website of the IndyCar Series, www.indycar.com. It will also be broadcast live on IMS Radio Network and XM Radio Channels 144 and 145.

-NHLR-

*Track Layouts (CART: 1989-2001; ICS 2007-present)

2.07-mile temporary street course (2007-present) Belle Isle (14 turn)

2.346-mile temporary street course (1998 – 2001) Belle Isle

2.1-mile temporary street course (1992-1997) downtown

2.5-mile temporary street course (1989-1991)

Newman/Haas/Lanigan Racing – PREVIEW
Detroit Indy Grand Prix Presented by Firestone
The Raceway at Belle Isle Park – Detroit, Michigan
Round 16 of 18 – The IndyCar Series

DATE: Friday - Sunday, August 29-31, 2008
BROADCAST: Live on ABC at 3:30 p.m. EDT on Sunday
TRACK LAYOUT: 14-turn, 2.07-mile temporary street course
RACE LENGTH: 90 laps (186.3 miles)
2007 WINNER: Tony Kanaan
2007 POLESITTER: Helio Castroneves

NHLR Racing Stats – Raceway at Belle Isle (14th event here for team (1989-2001); 2nd for ICS (2007-present))	
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WINS HERE:	2 (Michael Andretti 1996, 1990)
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POLES HERE:	6 (Mansell 1994, 1993; Mi. Andretti 1989-1992)
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PODIUM FINISHES HERE:	6 (2 nd – Mi. Andretti 1997, C. Fittipaldi 1996; 3 rd – Mario Andretti 1993, 1989)
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WINS & POLES ON ROAD/ STREET COURSES:	The team has earned 79 of their 106 victories and 89 of their 107 poles on road/street courses
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WILSON'S BEST ROAD/ STREET START/FINISH:	1st (seven poles) / 1 st (four wins)
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**WILSON'S BEST ROAD/
STREET S/F IN '08:**

1st in Long Beach, 2nd in Watkins Glen '08 / 3rd in Edmonton '08

**RAHAL'S BEST ROAD/
STREET S/F:**

4th, three times in '07 / 1st in St. Pete '08

**RAHAL'S BEST ROAD/
STREET S/F IN '08:**

8th in Edmonton '08 / 1st in St. Pete '08

JUSTIN WILSON, driver of the #02 McDonald's Dallara / Honda / Firestone:

IN DETROIT: Will be his first race here and 13th on a new track this season of 16. His highest start on a road/street course this season is pole in the Long Beach Champ Car finale. On road/street course in the IndyCar series, he has started 3rd (St. Pete), 2nd (Watkins Glen), 4th (Mid-Ohio), 6th (Edmonton; brushed wall in Q2) and 7th (Sonoma) and his highest finish is 3rd in Edmonton.

- 2006 & 2007 RUNNER UP TO THE CHAMPION: Finished runner up in the Champ Car championship to the driver he recently replaced, four-time champion Sebastien Bourdais, in 2006 and 2007. Was a championship contender until the conclusion of the penultimate race of each season. He also finished third to NHR drivers Bourdais and Oriol Servia in 2005.

- PERSONAL: Justin Boyd Wilson was born on July 31, 1978 (30) in Sheffield, England...He married the former Julia Coggins in England on 12-29-2006 and reside in a suburb of Denver with their newborn daughter Jane Louise (born 4-12-08; expected 6-1-08)...His father Keith was an amateur Formula Ford racer in England but retired before Justin was born due to a crash that broke his back and legs. Instead of taking interest in mother Lynne's love of horses, Justin followed his father's passion and began racing karts when he was eight...In order to help finance his 2003 season in Formula One, Justin created a company -- Justin Wilson PLC -- and approx. 900 investors "bought shares of Justin" which raised \$2 million. A portion of his earnings go toward repaying the debt...He has conquered the challenges of dyslexia and, if he wasn't a race car driver, would be a designer of cars or etc. because he is curious about how things work or how to improve them...Hobbies include cycling, miniature golf, video games, karting and trying to fly one of his two RC Helicopters...He spends his free time plotting and completing home improvement projects as well as trying to find time to mow the yard between races...His typical day begins at 7 a.m. and he calls the U.K. and checks his email before spending an hour at his local gym with Julia. After lunch he rides his bike for 1.5 hours and devotes the remainder of the day to home projects, reading 50+ pages of NHLR engineering reports and hanging out with friends...At 6' 3-1/2" he is the tallest IndyCar Series driver...Listens to Coldplay, Stereophonics, The White Stripes and dance music.

GRAHAM RAHAL, driver of the #06 Hole in the Wall Camps Dallara / Honda / Firestone:

- IN DETROIT: Will be his first race here and 12th on a new track this season of 16. Highest start on a road/street course this season is eighth in Edmonton and highest finish is his win in his IndyCar Series debut in St. Pete. His highest start in his one season in Champ Car was fourth, three times and his highest finish was second in Houston.

- PERSONAL: Graham Robert Rahal, 19, was born in Columbus, Ohio on 1-4-1989 and resides in New Albany, Ohio...The 6'2" driver is one of four children of Bobby Rahal, three-time open wheel champion, Indy 500 winner and Hall of Fame race car driver...Has two sisters (Michaela and Samantha) and one brother (Jarrad)...Became the youngest IndyCar Series winner with his victory in his series debut in St. Pete on 4-6-08 and appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman" on 4-16-08 to discuss the feat...Graduated from New Albany High School with a 3.8 GPA on 6-3-07 despite missing over 80 days of school that year due to racing. *ESPN The Magazine* covered his graduation... When not racing he likes to work on cars, hang out with friends and family or play other sports for fun...Is a self-proclaimed "Car Guy" and still has the first car he received when he was 16 -- a Subaru WRX sti --

and is in the process of turning it into a race car with a Cosworth race engine. He purchased an '07 Atomic Orange Corvette Z06 with his prize money but later sold it and now has an '07 Ron Fellows limited edition Corvette Z06 as well as an '08 Chevy Trailblazer SS. In addition he has a 1964 Mini Cooper that he restored for his high school senior project. He also temporarily owned a Porsche GT3 and an Audi he earned by graduating high school with a GPA of 3.5 or above...To prepare for the physicality of racing he spends many hours doing cardiovascular training and weightlifting, skiing, running or bicycling... His favorite type of clothing is anything made by Puma... His favorite food is sushi and his weaknesses are ice cream and white chocolate mocha drinks at Starbucks...His favorite books are those written by Lance Armstrong (and anything he read other than for school)...His favorite thing to watch on TV is any Ohio State Buckeye game, his favorite actor/actress are Owen Wilson and Eva Longoria and favorite movie is "*Wedding Crashers*."

What They're Saying About...

JUSTIN WILSON, No. 02 McDonald's Dallara/Honda/Firestone: "I'm looking forward to getting back on a street circuit for the first time since Long Beach. That weekend started good with a pole position for the McDonald's team but engine failure in the race ended our day pretty quickly. Racing on the streets of Belle Isle in Detroit should be fun and a challenge. Hopefully we will pick up where we left off with the Indy car in St. Petersburg where we had a very quick car even though it was our first street race with the different racing package. I'll have to learn a track again but it's nothing we aren't already used to this year. We'll get out and go for it.

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