

Dempsey Racing and No. 40 Mazda RX-8 Return To Site of Grand-Am Rolex Series Debut This Weekend in Salt Lake City

Dempsey Squad Ready for First Win after another Team-High Fourth-Place Finish in Montreal

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Sept. 17, 2009) – Returning to the site of both the team's and owner/driver Patrick Dempsey's Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series GT debut two years ago, Dempsey Racing and its No. 40 Mazda RX-8 will be looking for nothing short of its first victory in Saturday's Utah 250 at Miller Motorsports Park. The race is the 11th and next-to-last event on the 2009 Grand-Am Rolex Series schedule and can be seen live on SPEED this Saturday, Sept. 19, at 5:30 p.m. ET (2:30 p.m. PT).

Then running as Hyper Sport, Dempsey and partner/co-driver Joe Foster debuted the now familiar No. 40 Mazda RX-8 at the Miller event in September of 2007. The team has since switched to the Dempsey Racing name and in just two short years has evolved from series newcomers to podium contenders at every race with their Mazda.

"To say I am proud of the team and what we have accomplished with Mazda is an understatement," Dempsey said. "We are having a great season and have just two more races to get a victory or at least a top-three finish in 2009. Even better, we know we can do it and Miller Motorsports Park in Salt Lake City would be the perfect venue to make our first visit to victory lane. It all began right here in Utah."

Dempsey's Hollywood "day job" will keep him from racing this weekend but the team's anchor driver Foster will once again partner with Mazda factory standout Charles Espenlaub in the 2-3/4-hour timed race on the massive 4.486-mile Miller road course just outside of Salt Lake City. Foster and Espenlaub co-drove to another team-best fourth place finish one race ago in a wet and wild Montreal 200. Espenlaub was rapidly closing on the third-place car when time ran out.

"Montreal was pretty crazy with the changing conditions and we were actually racing in the wet on slicks for quite a few laps," Foster said. "That alone is a pretty intense situation but we stayed competitive, led for the second straight race and could have easily finished on the podium if the race was a little bit longer. It all points to a good race this weekend."

The solid Montreal result continued a strong record of eight top-10 finishes in the team's last 10 races, including a mid-season run of five straight with Dempsey and Foster co-driving. The highlight for that duo was a sixth-place finish at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in June while the combo of Foster and Espenlaub earned the team-best fourth-place finish for the first time at Barber Motorsports Park in July. Foster also qualified a Rolex Series personal and team-best second on Saturday at Barber.

Dempsey Racing's solid run of results this summer includes a top-10 finish in June's 24 Hours of Le Mans. Dempsey and Foster combined to drive more than 20 hours of the race and, along with teammate Don Kitch Jr., finished ninth in the GT2 class in the No. 81 Dempsey Racing/Team Seattle Ferrari F430 GT.

The 2009 season-ending race will be at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Saturday, Oct. 10.

"I'm looking forward to being back behind the wheel at Homestead," Dempsey said. "We'll have El Grado Tequila working with us again that weekend which will make it fun also."

Support for Dempsey Racing comes from Mazda, El Grado Spirits and Specialized Bicycles.

NOTEWORTHY

Dempsey and Foster recently attended the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Los Angeles on Sunday, Sept. 13. Dempsey is an Avon Foundation for Women Special Ambassador and joined Foster in raffling off the race suit Dempsey wore in the Rolex 24 at Daytona in January. The drivers also encouraged walkers to compete in the Dempsey Racing Champions' Circle next month for the opportunity to attend a 2010 race with the Dempsey Racing.

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