

Packing Plenty of Speed, Matt Bell is Mid-Ohio Bound

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Lexington, OH (16 June 2010)- For the last two consecutive GRAND-AM Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge races, Matt Bell has posted a best-in-class qualifying performance in the No. 6 Sunoco Fuels Camaro for Stevenson Motorsports, only to see that early pace derailed by some kind of bad-luck set back early in the race.



As the California youngster heads back east for the EMCO Gears Classic at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course this weekend, Bell will once again target a strong qualifying performance, while also looking for a change in luck come race time. Bell will share the driving duties with Jeff Bucknum as the duo hope to go one position better than the 2nd place finish they scored in April at VIR.

“Stevenson has continued to push this Camaro forward every weekend, and that has shown with our qualifying results improving in the last few races,” said Bell, who set the track record in qualifying at Mid-Ohio last year as he scored his 5th pole position. “But we also just need a little bit of luck on our side this weekend!”

With a full field of Grand Sports (GS) and Street Tuner (ST) machines once again slated to take the green flag on Saturday afternoon (SPEED broadcast--June 26, 1:00 PM ET), there will be plenty of competition for those podium positions once again.

Another challenge will likely lurk in the form of Mid-Ohio’s twisty back section of track. Bell has already shown with his record-setting times, he has a clear grip on the fastest way around the “Madness,” “Carousel,” and “Keyhole” corners. However, the same might not be true of the gravity-challenged Camaro.

While the Camaro’s solid platform should make the machine stable over some of the surface changes and patches on the 2.258-mile circuit, it will also make for a heavy workout for the Continental Tires.

“We’ve gone into the last two races with the mindset that we knew we had to conserve our tires through the opening stint, but unfortunately, we’ve had other setbacks early in the races that kept us from doing that,” said Bell.

“But we know that there are two tracks in one at Mid-Ohio-the two very long straight aways, and then the very technical back side of the track. So we will need to find that balance for the race. The Mustangs and BMW’s will likely be very strong again, but I think we have good reason to at least look for more improvement out of the Camaro this weekend and hopefully the Stevenson guys can keep pushing the development along”

That development work will be boosted by an extra day of testing ahead of the race weekend as Thursday will be a promoter test day. Results for the test day will not be posted, but all official sessions starting on Friday will be carried at www.grand-am.com for live timing and scoring.

Thursday, June 17
Promoter Test Day

Friday, June 18

9:10 AM-9:55 AM	Practice – Continental Tire Challenge
12:05 PM-1:05 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM-2:00 PM	Practice – Continental Tire Challenge
4:00 PM-4:15 PM	Qualifying– Continental Tire Challenge GS

Saturday, June 19

8:00 AM-8:30 AM	Final Practice – Continental Tire Challenge
12:30 PM-1:15 PM	Continental Tire Challenge Pre-Race/Pit Walk/Recon Laps including Driver’s Autograph Session
1:15 PM	START – Continental Tire Challenge Race (2.5 hrs)
4:00 PM	Rolex Series Pre-Race/Pit Walk/Recon Laps

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