

Sean Rayhall Wraps-Up 2015 Like a Christmas Present

2015 is now history. However, Sean Rayhall worked to get every last lap out of his self-described "best year of my career". In the closing months of the season, the Atlanta, Georgia-resident wrapped-up the year like a Christmas present. The rising star and multi-discipline racer tested at Daytona and Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, raced at Thunderhill, debuted a new web site and has been deep in negotiations with top tier teams to make the 2016 race season even better.

French Connection: A mid-December phone call changed Rayhall's holiday plans somewhat. While taking a well-earned vacation, the young talent was asked to attend an early test of French racecar manufacturer Ligier's newest entry into the motorsports landscape, the JSP3 prototype created for the new-in-2016 European Le Mans Series (ELMS) P3 class. Rayhall was on a plane to Spain the next day. The Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya was a perfect venue for Rayhall to experience and review the new closed-top, low-cost prototype and for the Ligier factory and its customer teams to evaluate the American. While only in the car for a short day's session on the 2.89-mile, 16-turn track, Rayhall positively raised European team owner eyebrows further opening opportunities for the upcoming season. For Rayhall, the car proved ideally suited for the mission it has been designed for, being quick but drivable for bronze and silver category drivers. Providing ample power and both mechanical and aerodynamic grip, the Ligier JSP3 should be a perfect fit for the entry levels of professional prototype racing in Europe. Currently, P3 class cars do not have a series in which to compete in the US.

Feel the Thunder: Rayhall, who recently moved from his home in Winston, Georgia to the state capital of Atlanta, closed out the 2015 race season with a

return to the longest sports car event in North America, the 25 Hours of Thunderhill. Rayhall competed in the National Auto Sport Association (NASA)-sanctioned race at Thunderhill Raceway in Willows, California in 2014 as well, but left with unfinished business. Returning with ONE Motorsports driving the No. 67 Radical SR3 open-top prototype in the ESR class, the 20 year-old attacked the 2.86-mile, 15-turn track located north of Sacramento capturing the overall race pole position in a lap that surprised many. The driving combination of John Falb, Todd Slusher and Jeff Shafer ran in the top-five overall but was disqualified near the race's midpoint completing 381 of the overall winner's final 690 circuits.

What's Next: Rayhall recently completed tests in various cars both in Europe and the open IMSA test days at Daytona International Speedway. For the Rolex 24 At Daytona prep session in mid-November, the Georgian was asked to test the Claro/TracFone DeltaWing coupe. By all accounts, the test, Rayhall's first time in the unique low-drag, small engine displacement prototype, was successful. The Braselton, Georgia-based program is yet to set its driving squad for the forthcoming WeatherTech SportsCar Championship Prototype season.

Multiple season-long and "one-off" programs beyond the IMSA-sanctioned WeatherTech Championship are also being explored. The goal is to place the rising star with the right opportunity to maximize the team and driver's potential in the new season. Final details of his 2016 plans will be announced in the coming weeks.

New Web Approach: Rayhall recently re-launched his personal website, www.SeanRayhall.com, using a new low-cost, sports-focused online tool, athleteengine. Found at www.athleteengine.com, the



resource provides an easily updatable, social media-driven web platform for athletes of all levels ranging from little league baseball to professional motor-

sports. Rayhall's is a featured site as the driver was an early adopter of the new approach for a web presence.





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