

TOYOTA RACING DRIVER KIMMEL CLAIMS ARCA RACING SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Clinches Record 10th Series Championship in Kansas Season-Finale

Frank Kimmel clinched his record 10th career ARCA Racing Series driver's championship after winning the season-finale race at Kansas Speedway. Kimmel clinched the first championship for ThorSport Racing at the 1.5-mile speedway. Kimmel's previous nine ARCA championships took place in 1998 and 2000-2007.

This season, Kimmel had four wins and 21 top-10 finishes in 21 races driving a Toyota Camry for ThorSport Racing.

In addition to his victory at Kansas Speedway, the 51-year-old Clarksville, Ind.-native posted victories at Alabama's Talladega Superspeedway (May 3), Minnesota's Elko Speedway (June 1) and Indiana's Winchester Speedway (June

30). Kimmel has earned a total of 80 career ARCA wins surpassing Iggy Katona (79) for the most career series victories.

"I'm so proud to bring this first championship to ThorSport Racing and everyone affiliated with this race team," said Kimmel, following the race. "Everyone on the team has worked so hard to give me an incredible Ansell/Menards Toyota Camry this season and enable me to secure a 10th ARCA Racing Series championship."

Toyota drivers have eight ARCA wins this season. In addition to Kimmel's four wins, Camry drivers Kyle Benjamin, Erik Jones, Brennan Poole and John Wes Townley also visited victory lane once during the season.

It marks the third ARCA Racing Series driver's title for a Toyota driver. Along with Kimmel's championship, Justin Lofton (2009) and Patrick Sheltra (2010) each earned ARCA titles behind the wheel of Toyota Camrys.

"Frank has accomplished an impressive record in the ARCA Racing Series, earning a 10th career series championship, as well as the first for ThorSport Racing," said Les Unger, National Motorsports Manager, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. "On behalf of everyone at Toyota and TRD, I would like to congratulate Frank and everyone at ThorSport Racing on a truly outstanding season."

Toyota drivers have previously captured



50 YEAR OLD FRANK KIMMEL PACING THE FIELD

four driver's championships in two of NASCAR's premier series -- Todd Bodine (2006 and 2010) and Johnny Benson (2008) in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series (NCWTS), and Kyle Busch (2009) in the NASCAR Nationwide Series (NNS).

In addition, Toyota drivers have earned a total of six NASCAR regional series driver's titles.

Kyle Larson earned the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East (NKNPSE) championship in 2012 and Max Gresham earned the NKNPSE driver's title in 2011. Ryan Truex also picked up a pair of NKNPSE driver's titles in 2009 and 2010. In 2008 and 2010, Eric Holmes captured NASCAR K&N Pro Series West (NKNPSW) championships.

Toyota, the world's top automaker and creator of the Prius, is committed to building vehicles for the way people live through its Toyota, Lexus and Scion

brands. Over the past 50 years, the company has built more than 25 million cars and trucks in North America, where Toyota operates 14 manufacturing plants (10 in the U.S.) and directly employ nearly 40,000 people (more than 37,000 in the U.S.). The company's 1,800 North American dealerships sold more

than 2.3 million cars and trucks in 2012 -- and about 80 percent of all Toyota vehicles sold over the past 20 years are still on the road today. (NYSE:TM) For more information about Toyota, visit www.toyotanewsroom.com. TRD, U.S.A. (Toyota Racing Development)

Powering all of Toyota's American racing programs is TRD, U.S.A. (Toyota Racing Development) in Costa Mesa, Calif., and Salisbury, N.C. A subsidiary of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., TRD

serves as the North American racing arm for design, development and assembly of Toyota's factory racing engines.



FRANK WON SPRING RACE AT THE DEGA SPRING RACE

Close Calls: continued from page 5

Well, I do. And NASCAR should too because if you watch the chat boards and other types of public comment, the sport seems to be taking a beating in casual conversation regardless of age demographics.

That said, get ready to crack open another beer and settle in for another NASCAR Sprint Cup race this Saturday at Charlotte. Hopefully, it will offer up something good/interesting for people to talk about because based on what I heard last weekend on 'the Crawl,' NASCAR is in need of a serious jolt of positive public perception.

About John Close

John Close covered his first race as a professional media member in 1985. Since then, Close -- a former Associated Press newspaper sports editor -- has written countless articles for numerous motorsports magazines, trade publications and Internet sites.

You can direct comments/inquiries to Close at closefinishes@carolina.rr.com

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Rush - A movie based on the 1976 Formula One Season

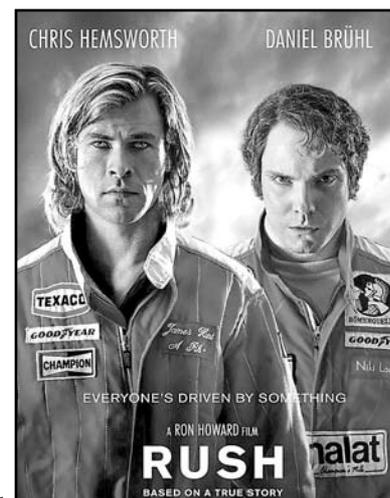
Rush is a biographical action packed film based on the 1976 Formula One Season directed by Ron Howard about the rivalry between drivers James Hunt and Niki Lauda, hopscotching the circuit from Brazil to Monaco to Japan.

The 1976 Formula One season starts with Lauda in a Ferrari dominating the first two races while Hunt struggles to catch up. Hunt wins the Spanish Grand Prix in his McLaren, but is disqualified after a post-race inspection rules that his car is too wide.

At the German Grand Prix, Lauda urges the F1 committee to cancel the race due to rain on an already dangerous race track. On the third lap, a suspension arm in Lauda's Ferrari breaks, sending the car crashing violently before it bursts into flames. After being pulled out of the flaming wreckage, he has third-degree burns to his head and toxic fumes in his lungs. For the next six weeks, Lauda is treated for his injuries. Against his doctor's orders, he returns behind the wheel of his Ferrari at the Italian Grand Prix to finish fourth while Hunt fails to finish the race.

The 1976 season comes to a climax at the rain-soaked Japanese Grand Prix. Hunt finishes third, giving him enough points to beat Lauda by one point and win the championship.

A must see film for any race fan.



- Philip Prichard