



Matt Bell Takes 17th on Mid-Ohio Grid

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Lexington, Oh (16 September 2011) – Matt Bell broke his own track record in qualifying for the GRAND-AM Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge race on Friday with a fast lap time of 1:32.120-seconds around the 2.258-mile natural terrain circuit. Unfortunately, the time, which was a marked improvement over his 2010 mark of 1:33.635-seconds, will only net him 17th on the grid for Saturday's season-finale race at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

Bell, who with co-driver John Edwards, will look to pursue a third race win on the season, although he knows that the challenge will be significant after a disappointing qualifying session.

"The Stevenson guys will go back and look at every possible element and go through all the data to see what is going on with the car," said Bell. "We have lost some time this weekend with some breakages on the car, so we kind of started one day behind everyone else today. I'm not sure what our direction will be, because it wasn't like there was an obvious issue."

Having started the Road America race from 11th before breaking through to score the first ever win for the Camaro in GRAND-AM, Bell knows that qualifying is just one element of the race weekend.

"We just have to see what we can find with the car, and make some decisions about what we need to do to improve tomorrow," said Bell. "We have a warm up in the morning, and that will be another chance to work on it and hopefully we can come up with some thing that will help us move forward tomorrow. We started pretty far back and still won at Road America, so hopefully we can use that script again tomorrow!"

Race coverage will broadcast September 25 at 1:00 PM (ET) on SPEED.

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