



News & Notes

Race 10, Watkins Glen International



After Indy Win, Popow Looks to Continue 'Dream Season'



Alex Popow (left) kisses the bricks after winning at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Alex Popow made his first GRAND-AM Rolex Series victory one to remember.

The Venezuelan joined IndyCar star **Sebastien Bourdais** in winning the recent Brickyard Grand Prix, GRAND-AM's first race at historic Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Not only did Popow get to kiss the bricks, the victory also gave him a "championship within a championship," individual Daytona Prototype honors in the inaugural North American Endurance Championship presented by VISITFLORIDA.com, and the \$100,000 team title for Starworks Motorsport.

"Indianapolis was very, very big," Popow said. "It's amazing to win a major championship in only my second year here. That gives me confidence to keep going, and I'm looking forward to a stronger run next year."

This weekend, Popow returns in the team's **No. 2 Ford/Riley** as Starworks looks to continue its dream season. Popow and fellow full-time Starworks driver **Ryan Dalziel** were part of the team's runner-up finish in the season-opening Rolex 24 At Daytona while Dalziel finished third at the Sahlen's Six Hours of The Glen in July and was part of Starworks' class-winning efforts in both the 12 Hours of Sebring and 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Pruett, Rojas Get First Crack At Milestone Win For Team Owner

Scott Pruett and **Memo Rojas** teamed with **Joey Hand** and **Graham Rahal** in the 2011 Rolex 24 At Daytona to score the "Chip Slam," giving **Chip Ganassi Racing** victories in the Daytona 500, Indianapolis 500, Brickyard 400 and Rolex 24 over the course of 12 months.

This weekend, the drivers of the **No. 01 TELMEX BMW/Riley** are looking to give the Ganassi organization its 150th victory in combined GRAND-AM, NASCAR and major open-wheel competition at the Continental Tire 200 presented by Dunn Tire.

Pruett and Rojas are currently leading the DP standings in quest of their third consecutive title – and fourth in five seasons. Pruett and Rojas won the title in the No. 01 TELMEX BMW/Riley in 2008, 2010 and 2011. While the pair won at least five races in each of its championship seasons (six in 2008, nine in 2011 and five in 2011), their only 2012 victory was at Road America. Pruett also won the DP title in 2004, winning four races co-driving with **Max Papis**.

Pruett is the leading winner in GRAND-AM history with 37 DP and 38 class victories, including Road America in June; Rojas is second with 24 DP victories. He also has a solid resume at Watkins Glen International. He has six Rolex Series victories at the circuit, winning the August event in 2010 with Rojas and in 2006 with Luis Diaz. Pruett was a five-time competitor in the Finger Lakes 355 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race, finishing second in 2003 and fourth in 2005, both with Chip Ganassi Racing. He also raced four times in the NASCAR Nationwide Series, winning the pole and finishing eighth in 2001. He competed in four IROC events, finishing second in 1989, third in 1988 and fourth in 1987.



Chip Ganassi celebrates following his team's win at Road America in June.

The Place:
Watkins Glen International
Watkins Glen, NY

The Date/Time:
Saturday, 6 p.m. ET

The Race Length:
2 hours

TV: SPEED (LIVE)

Radio: MRN Radio
(WRCE-AM 1490)

DP Driver Standings

Pos.	Drivers	Pts.
1	Memo Rojas Scott Pruett	265
2	Ryan Dalziel	254
3	Darren Law	252
4	David Donohue	243
5	Alex Popow	242

GT Driver Standings

Pos.	Drivers	Pts.
1	Emil Assentato Jeff Segal	276
2	Robin Liddell	250
3	Paul Dalla Lana	249
4	Jonathan Bomarito Sylvain Tremblay	249
5	Andrew Davis Leh Keen	230



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GRAND-AM Road Racing

Unfinished Business: Magnus Racing Seeks Redemption At Watkins Glen



Magnus Racing came to Watkins Glen for the Sahlen's Six Hours in June with the GT lead in the North American

Endurance Championship presented by VISITFLORIDA.com by virtue of winning the Rolex 24 At Daytona. But only 12 laps into the Sahlen's Six Hours the hopes of **John Potter** and **Andy Lally** went up in flames when the **No. 44 Porsche GT3** fell victim to

electrical problems.

Undeterred, the Salt Lake City, Utah-based team went to work. They rebuilt the damaged car in three weeks and had it ready for the Brickyard Grand Prix. Potter and Lally became GRAND-AM's first GT winners at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and also wrapped up the \$50,000 NAEC GT title.

"It's unbelievable how hard they worked and it's a perfect reward for such a great crew," said Potter. Lally added, "I thought the NAEC was really cool when I first heard about it. To ac-

tually win it – combining it with victories at Indianapolis and the Rolex 24 At Daytona – is really epic."

Lally has added incentive for a strong showing in the return to the Glen. WGI is the home track for Lally, a native of Northport, N.Y. He returned to the Rolex Series in 2012 after competing in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series last year, winning the Sunoco Rookie of the Year Award. He is a three-time competitor in the Finger Lakes 355 at The Glen, with his best finish 18th in 2010.

Jordan Taylor To Make Daytona Prototype Season Debut For Action Express Racing

Back in June, Action Express Racing scored a thrilling victory in the Sahlen's Six Hours of The Glen, with **Joao Barbosa** and **Darren Law** winning in the **No. 9 Corvette DP**. Barbosa caught **Alex Gurney** in the **No. 99 GAINSCO Auto Insurance Corvette DP** in traffic with 20 minutes remaining and used lapped cars to his advantage down the stretch, winning by .238 seconds.

Barbosa and Law return in the No. 9 Corvette for Saturday's Continental Tire 200 presented by Dunn Tire. They will have a new teammate in the team's No. 5 entry, with **David**

Donohue joined by **Jordan Taylor**.

Taylor was approached by Action Express Racing after he tested his father Wayne Taylor's **No. 10 SunTrust Corvette DP** at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Taylor joined Action Express for a tire test at Watkins Glen, leading to the invitation to race this weekend.

"It's just a one-race deal," Taylor said. "When the team called and asked if I would be available to do the race with them, of course I said yes. I've always wanted to drive in DPs, and especially with a successful team like Action Express and David Donohue –

you can't really say no."

It will also mark the first time in several years that Taylor has gone head-to-head with his older brother **Ricky Taylor**, who shares their father's **No. 10 SunTrust Corvette DP** with **Max Angelelli**.

"It will be interesting to see what happens, and I know Ricky will be one of the toughest guys to go up against," Taylor said. "I think it will be a little awkward to begin with, but it's just going to be another race car on the track and another competitor. Once I'm in the race car, we'll be trying to beat any car that's out there."

Ferrari, Corvette Head Down Final Stretch With Healthy Leads In Manufacturer Battle

With four races remaining in the 2012 Rolex Sports Car Series season, Corvette and Ferrari lead the respective Daytona Prototype and GT classes in the fight for the Manufacturer championship.

Powered by six victories for the new Corvette DP, Chevrolet leads the Daytona Prototype standings by 20 points over Ford, 294-274. BMW is third in the chase with 268 points.

In GT, Ferrari leads the standings by 15 points on the basis of three victories for the new Ferrari 458 Italia. Ferrari has 279 points, followed by Chevrolet (264), Mazda (263), Porsche (260) and BMW (249) in a tight battle for second.

Emil Assentato and **Jeff Segal**

have dominated the GT driver standings, holding a 26-point lead over **Robin Liddell** (276-250). The drivers of the AIM Autosport Team FXDD Ferrari 458 Italia have three victories among six podium finishes, and have finished in the top five in every event since debuting the car with an eighth-place finish in the Rolex 24 At Daytona.

Rolex Series, Etc.

* **Leh Keen** will be seeking his third consecutive victory in the Continental Tire 200. After winning the event with **James Gue** in 2010 Keen partnered with **Andrew Davis** in the No. 59 Brumos Porsche GT3 in 2011.

* **James Davison** returns to the **No. 46 Michael Baughman Corvette** for the Continental Tire 200. The two-time winner in Indy Lights competition had a solid outing with the team in his first Rolex Series GT race at Indianapolis.

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CONTINENTAL TIRE SPORTS CAR CHALLENGE

News & Notes

NEXT RACE:
Continental Tire
Sports Car Festival

The Place:
 Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca,
 Salinas, Calif.

The Date:
 Saturday, Sept. 8

The Track: 2.23-mile road course

The Race Length:
 2 hours, 30 minutes

TV: SPEED - Sept. 16, 1:30 p.m. ET

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GS Driver Standings

Pos.	Drivers	Pts.
1	David Empringham John Farano	218
2	Nick Longhi Matt Plumb	212
3	Eric Curran Lawson Aschenbach	211
4	Al Carter	183
5	Hugh Plumb	179

ST Driver Standings

Pos.	Drivers	Pts.
1	Pierre Kleinubing	188
2	Nic Jonsson Andy Lally	170
2	Derek Whitis Tom Long	170
4	Tom Dyer	152
5	Jeff Mosing Jesse Combs	147

Curran Headlines List of CTSCC Drivers Attempting ZIPPO 200



Eric Curran

With the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge on an off weekend a number of the series' top competitors have decided to take their talents to Watkins Glen and try their hand at stock car racing on The Glen's 2.45-mile short course. Led by Brickyard Sports Car Challenge winner **Eric Curran**, this weekend's NASCAR Nationwide Series field features a who's-who of some of Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge's best.

Joining Curran in the ZIPPO 200 are **Matt Bell**, driver of the **No. 9 Stevenson Motorsports Camaro GS.R** and **Ryan Ellis**, driver of the **No. 30 i-Moto Mazda Speed 3**.

Bell, who will be driving the **No. 39 Global Barter Chevrolet** in the ZIPPO 200 on Saturday, currently sits seventh in GS points with a season-best finish of fifth at Mid-Ohio. He has made one other Nationwide Series start this season, finishing 34th at Road America.

Ellis also made his lone Nationwide Series start at Road America finishing 39th and will return at Watkins Glen driving the **No. 52 Chevrolet** for NASCAR veteran Jimmy Means. Ellis sits 15th in ST points and has one win on the season (Homestead).

The winner of the inaugural race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Curran has enjoyed a stellar season driving the **No. 01 CKS Autosport Camaro**. Driving with co-driver **Lawson Aschenbach**, Curran has scored podiums in four of the last five Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge races. Despite a season-opening finish of 22nd at Daytona, Curran and Aschenbach sit third in GS points, just seven points out of first.

Curran will make his Nationwide Series debut this weekend in the **No. 53 Dodge** for NDS Motorsports. If he needs any help he can lean on Rolex Series teammate **Boris Said**, who is a frequent NASCAR road course competitor and will be competing in Sunday's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race.

"I'm really excited for my Nationwide debut this weekend. I grew up racing in New England and won my first race here back in 1996," Curran said. "To make a great opportunity even better I'll be racing the No. 53 at Montreal the following weekend as well."

Said Set For 12th NASCAR Sprint Cup Race At The Glen

Boris Said is used to double duty weekends, racing the Turner Motorsports BMW M3 in the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge in addition to sharing the **No. 31 Whelen Engineering Corvette** in the Rolex Series with **Eric Curran**.

Said shares the No. 97 BMW M3 with **Michael Marsal**, with their best finish third season fourth at New Jersey Motorsports Park.

With the CTSCC not in action this weekend, Said will double up at Watkins Glen, driving the No. 32 HENDRICKCARS.com Ford for Jack Roush Ford in Sunday's Finger Lakes 355 At The Glen NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race.

Said is an 11-time Sprint Cup Series competitor at The Glen since 1999, scoring two top-10 finishes – including his career-best third in 2005. Said has 44 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series starts, winning two pole positions.

** The Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge will resume its 2012 season on Sept. 8, with the Continental Tire Sports Car Festival powered by Mazda at Mazda Raceway.*

Separate races for the two classes mark the season finale at Lime Rock Park. The Street Tuner campaign concludes with a two and a half hour race on Friday, Sept. 28, followed by the Saturday Grand Sport finale.



2012 Rolex Sports Car Series Schedule / Results

DATE	RACE	FACILITY	WINNERS
Jan. 28-29	Rolex 24 At Daytona	Daytona International Speedway	DP: Allmendinger/Pew/ Negri/Wilson GT: Lally/Potter/Lietz/Rast
March 31	Porsche 250	Barber Motorsports Park	DP: Richard Westbrook/Antonio Garcia GT: Sylvain Tremblay/Jonathan Bomarito
April 29	Grand Prix Of Miami	Homestead-Miami Speedway	DP: Ricky Taylor/Max Angelelli GT: Jeff Segal/Emil Assentato
May 13	New Jersey 250	New Jersey Motorsports Park	DP: Ricky Taylor/Max Angelelli GT: Jeff Segal/Emil Assentato
June 2	Chevrolet GRAND-AM Detroit 200	Raceway At Belle Isle Park	DP: Joao Barbosa/Darren Law GT: Jordan Taylor/Paul Edwards
June 9	EMCO Gears Classic	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course	DP: Richard Westbrook/Michael Valiante GT: Bill Auberlen/Paul Dalla Lana
June 23	Road America 250	Road America	DP: Memo Rojas/Scott Pruett GT: Jeff Segal/Emil Assentato
July 1	Sahlen's Six Hours Of The Glen	Watkins Glen International	DP: Joao Barbosa/Darren Law GT: Robin Liddell/John Edwards
July 27	Brickyard Grand Prix	Indianapolis Motor Speedway	DP: Alex Popow/Sebastien Bourdais GT: Andy Lally/John Potter
Aug. 11	Continental Tire 200 by Dunn Tire	Watkins Glen International	
Aug. 18	Montreal 200	Circuit Gilles Villeneuve	
Sept. 9	Continental Tire Sports Car Festival Powered by Mazda	Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca	
Sept. 29	Rolex Series Finale	Lime Rock Park	



2012 Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge Schedule / Results

DATE	RACE	FACILITY	WINNERS
Jan. 27	BMW Performance 200	Daytona International Speedway	GS: Jack Roush Jr./Billy Johnson ST: Jayson Clunie/Pierre Kleinubing
March 31	Barber 200	Barber Motorsports Park	GS: Matt Plumb/Nick Longhi ST: David Levine/Gregory Liefooghe
April 28	Kia 200	Homestead-Miami Speedway	GS: Matt Plumb/Nick Longhi ST: Ryan Ellis/Martin Jensen
May 12	Garden State 200	New Jersey Motorsports Park	GS: Andrew Aquilante/Bret Spaude ST: Owen Trinkler/Corey Fergus
June 9	EMCO Gears Classic	Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course	GS: Jack Roush Jr./Billy Johnson ST: Chad Gilsinger/Michael Valiante
June 22	Road America 200	Road America	GS: Matt Plumb/Nick Longhi ST: David Cheng/Aleks Altberg
June 30	Continental Tire 150	Watkins Glen International	GS: Matt Plumb/Nick Longhi ST: Chad Gilsinger/Michael Valiante
July 27	Brickyard Sports Car Challenge	Indianapolis Motor Speedway	GS: Lawson Aschenbach/Eric Curran ST: Seth Thomas/Daniel Rogers
Sept. 8	Continental Tire Sports Car Festival Powered by Mazda	Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca	
Sept. 28-29	CTSCC Finale	Lime Rock Park	