

NICK MANCUSO

NICK MANCUSO FACES ADVERSITY IN HOME RACE AT THE GRAND PRIX OF ROAD AMERICA



Grand Prix of Road America / Elkhart Lake, WI (June 21, 2014) – After a pair of 7th place finishes in the previous rounds at the Detroit Grand Prix, Ferrari driver Nick Mancuso was out for blood this past weekend at his home track of Road America. Driving the #16 Ferrari Lake Forest/Wounded Wear 458 GT3 entry prepared by R. Ferri Motorsport, Mancuso looked to be a contender for pole position early on in the weekend after posting the 2nd quickest time in practice just behind ex-Formula 1 driver Tomas Engé’s Lamborghini. With qualifying rained out, an officiating error in Race 1 and contact in Race 2, Nick would have to settle for disappointing 11th and 7th place finishes in Rounds 7 & 8 in front of his home crowd.

“What a disappointment this weekend was for me” Mancuso noted of the 11th and 7th place finishes. “I’m trying not to throw anybody under the bus, but frankly the series made a bad call in Race 1 confusing my car number with another car and I had to serve a drive through penalty during the race for someone else’s mistake.”

With qualifying rained out, Nick missed his chance to get the pole position and the field was set by points lining him up 7th in Race #1. After making one of his best starts of the season and battling for fourth position over the opening laps, Nick got the call over the radio that he would have to come in and serve a drive through penalty for jumping the start.

“At first I just said ‘No I’m not coming in’” stated Mancuso. “I knew I didn’t jump the start and I had a car to win the race as it was getting better every lap. Eventually being forced to come into the pits during the race meant that it was essentially over for me at that point so I just salvaged what I could. I got stuck in some pretty heavy traffic for the remainder of the race and only set my quick lap time on the very last lap of Race 1.”

Putting everything he had into his last lap of Race 1 and judging traffic perfectly, Mancuso was able to post a quick time as the checkered flag fell ensuring that he would line up 3rd on the grid for Saturday morning’s Race 2. Getting another good launch in his Ferrari 458 Italia GT3, Nick spent the first few corners side-by-side with Cadillac’s Johnny O’Connell and putting pressure on eventual race winner Mike Skeen’s Audi R8. After a race-long battle with the Bentley GT3 of Butch Leitzinger, Mancuso got “mugged” on the restart by several cars while running P4 and lost a few positions after some contact in Turns 5 & 6 resulting in a 7th place finish.

“Ouch, that’s not how we wanted to finish that one out” said Mancuso. “We definitely had a car to challenge for the podium in those last few laps, but I got banged around going into Turn 6. The Bentley just motored on by me into 5, but Butch drove a great race; the next two characters who muscled passed me into 6 were a little more questionable. If we didn’t have the long caution I believe I would have just kept progressing forward. Even though these are all great drivers around me in Pirelli World Challenge, you just hate to leave the weekend with a best finish of 7th when the R. Ferri Motorsport team had so much more potential coming into this race. After what we learned around the streets of Detroit look for us to be strong heading into Remo’s home race of Toronto!”

Next up for the #16 Ferrari Lake Forest entry is the Honda Indy at Toronto. Mancuso heads into Rounds 9 and 10 seventh in the overall GT points championship.

The Road America races will air Friday, July 4th at 6:30pm EST on NBC Sports Network. You can also view the races now at www.World-ChallengeTV.com. You can find more information by following Nick on Twitter @NickMancusoRace and checking NickMancusoRacing.com.



About Nick Mancuso

Nick Mancuso is one of the more interesting and accomplished drivers in Pirelli World Challenge. In addition to his racing activities, he was inducted into the Cum Laude society, made a member of the National Honor Society and chosen as a National Merit Scholar before graduating from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2009. He is a black belt in Shotokan Karate and an 'extreme adventurer' with hobbies that include spearfishing, Krav Maga, skydiving and capturing/photographing reptiles in the wild.

About R.Ferri Motorsports

Led by Remo Ferri, R.Ferri Motorsport Racing with Ferrari is in its first full season of competition in the Pirelli World Challenge. Founded in 1991, R.Ferri Motorsport is a professional Canadian racing team headquartered in Toronto, Ontario and races in partnership with the Remo Ferri Group of Automobiles including Ferrari of Ontario, Toronto and Alberta. R.Ferri Motorsport also provides technical, racing, and logistical support for the North American Ferrari Challenge along with other exclusive customer track events. Learn more at www.rferrimotorsport.com.

About Ferrari Lake Forest

Ferrari Lake Forest is a world-class, 70,000 square foot luxury automotive dealership located in the Chicagoland area. The success of Ferrari Lake Forest lies not only in the DNA of its cars, but also the people who stand behind it- the Mancuso family. An automotive family since 1923, it is now the fourth generation of Mancusos carrying on the family tradition of selling quality automotive products while quickly becoming one of the most well respected names in motorsport. Please visit www.FerrariLakeForest.com for more information.

About Wounded Wear

Wounded Wear is a non-profit organization founded by Jason Redman, a decorated Navy SEAL and author of *The Trident*, who was gravely injured in a firefight while pursuing a High-Value Al Qaeda leader. Wounded Wear enables wounded warriors to "Rediscover The Hero Within" by providing free clothing and clothing modifications to these individuals. WW also raises the national awareness of the sacrifices made by wounded veterans and their families. Please visit www.WoundedWear.org for more information.

Take a ride with Nick around the track by visiting the Nick Mancuso Racing YouTube channel. For additional information, please visit <http://www.nickmancusoracing.com>. For photos, interviews, etc., contact Nick directly at Nick@NickMancusoRacing.com

