

NICK MANCUSO **R**ACING

NICK MANCUSO WINS GT-A, DOUBLE PODIUMS IN THE GRAND PRIX OF ALABAMA AT BARBER MOTORSPORT PARK



Grand Prix of Alabama / Birmingham, AL (April 27, 2014) – After suffering from a tire puncture at the previous Pirelli World Challenge round in Long Beach, Ferrari driver Nick Mancuso secures his first GT-A class win and podiums overall at the Grand Prix of Alabama double race weekend. Driving the #16 Ferrari Lake Forest/Wounded Wear 458 GT3 entry prepared by R. Ferri Motorsport, Mancuso took the weekend by storm securing Ferrari's first-ever pole position in Pirelli World Challenge competition during Friday's qualifying session. Nick's teammate, Anthony Lazzaro, qualified second making it an all-Ferrari front row sweep.

"Wow, I certainly didn't think we were contenders for the pole coming into this weekend" stated Mancuso. "We have been working together so well as a team, but it's still early days in this new endeavor for R. Ferri Motorsports. I put in a quick lap early and the team told me I was P4 and I thought to myself 'OK... that's not too bad, I can live with that' and then they said I was seven tenths of a second off P1 and I thought 'No way; I haven't been more than a tenth off of P1 all weekend!' and then just threw down on my next lap." And "throw down" he did: Nick was the only driver to break into the 1:23 range during qualifying and his pole position lap of 1:23.866 stands as a new track record at Barber Motorsports Park. This was Nick's first professional pole position.

In Race #1 the two Ferraris both got clean standing starts and Nick maintained his lead through the first turn and went on to pull a sizeable gap on teammate Lazzaro and the entire field maintaining his lead through the first 17 laps. Unfortunately, a caution period bunched the field back up, but Nick was able to maintain P1 during the restart. However, lapped traffic slowed him up in the vital Turn 2 and allowed teammate Lazzaro to get a run on him into Turn 5 and take over the lead after the two drivers ran side-by-side for several corners within inches of each other making for one of the highlights of the race. Eventually, the Cadillac of defending series champion Johnny O'Connell caught Nick and passed him for second place. What ensued during the closing laps of Race #1 was described by the announcers as some of the most exciting racing of this season as Mancuso reeled O'Connell back in and tried several passing attempts on the last lap. Into the tight Turn 5 Mancuso was actually able to slip past O'Connell under braking before the Cadillac repassed him into the next corner where Nick would eventually have to settle for 3rd place overall and 1st place GT-A driver.

"Man, I wanted that one badly" reflects Mancuso. "If I couldn't win it overall I at least wanted to get the Ferrari 1-2 finish for Remo and the boys. Congrats to Anthony on the victory! Johnny has a 'couple' years of racing experience on me and he used every bit of it to hold me off in those closing laps. I went for it in Turn 5 on the last lap and I told the Cadillac boys after the race I just had to or else I wouldn't have been able to sleep tonight. Oh well, it should look good on TV!"

On Sunday morning Nick would get a second chance during Race #2 of the double-header weekend. Gridding up in the 4th position based on fast lap times from Race #1, Mancuso got another clean start but the superior launch of the Cadillac allowed O'Connell to yet again get in front of the #16 Ferrari. Another great Cadillac-Ferrari battle ensued as Nick was glued to Johnny's bumper for most of the race and attempted to pass several times in the closing laps again. Nick would have to settle being held off by the 4-time 24 Hours of Le Mans winner and ended up finishing in 4th position, just a few tenths of a second off of the podium.

"Again, hats off to the Cadillac boys, Johnny drove a great race" said Mancuso. "He was able to defend the corner entry aggressively and still beat me off the corner and down the ensuing straight so there was no way to get by him without playing bumper cars; and I wanted to keep the #16 Ferrari Lake Forest 458 shiny and red the way she came into the weekend!"

Next up for the #16 Ferrari Lake Forest entry is the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix May 30-June 1st. Mancuso heads into Round 6 jumping up from 11th overall after the flat tire at Long Beach to 6th after the 2 strong finishes this weekend.

The Barber races will air Saturday, May 10 at 4pm 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

