

ARCA RACING SERIES RETURNS TO TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY FOR RATTLESNAKE 150 AFTER 11-YEAR ABSENCE

- ★ Texans Nur Ali, Lance Fenton Looking Forward To Hometown Crowd
- ★ Former AMA Champ Ricky Carmichael Gaining Seat Time With ARCA Competition
- ★ Canadian Driver Steve Arpin Living His Dream

FORT WORTH, Texas (April 12, 2010) – The Rattlesnake 150 may be new to Texas Motor Speedway’s 2010 race lineup, but the ARCA Racing Series Presented by RE/MAX and Menards is no stranger to the 1.5-mile speedway.

Friday’s Rattlesnake 150 marks the first time the ARCA Racing Series has raced at Texas Motor Speedway since the inaugural Z-MAX 250 on Sept. 18, 1998. The series has progressed to a new group of drivers than that of the 1998 lineup, with drivers like 29-year-old **Justin Marks** and 23-year-old **Robb Brent** now dominating the competition. But two drivers in Friday’s race have some race experience on this 1.5-mile oval, albeit more than a decade ago in ARCA’s only appearance at Texas Motor Speedway.

Brad Smith, a 41-year-old from Shelby Township, Mich., finished 19th in the Z-MAX 250, which was his second career start. Smith now is 12 years deep into his ARCA career and still looking for his first win as well as a top-10 finish.

“I have some very distinct memories from the inaugural TMS race in 1998,” said Smith, who finished 19th in that race.

“It was the fans! I’ve never felt more welcomed by a group of race fans as I have by the fans at that race. I’m glad we’re going back to Texas and I hope it stays on the



Justin Marks



Robb Brent



Brad Smith



Frank Kimmel

UPCOMING Events

THURSDAY: Fort Worth Mayor **Mike Moncrief** and Texas Governor **Rick Perry**, along with NASCAR stars and Texas natives **Bobby Labonte** and **Colin Braun**, declare the start of NASCAR week at TMS riding NASCAR-themed Molly the Trolleys. Speedway Motorsports, Inc. CEO and Chairman **Bruton Smith** and TMS President **Eddie Gossage** also will accompany the drivers and dignitaries. The procession will begin at Ninth St. and Main St., and continue down Main until Third St., where officials will present the proclamation. This event begins at 3 p.m. CT and is open to the public.

FRIDAY: Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame Gala, The Speedway Club, 7 p.m. CT, **Joe Gibbs** will become the newest member of the hall of fame while other NASCAR stars including **Robert Yates**, **Kyle Busch**, **Jeff Gordon** and **Marcos Ambrose** receive awards.



Joe Gibbs

schedule for a long time.”

Clarksville, Ind. native **Frank Kimmel** was in his sixth year of ARCA racing when he made his start in the Z-MAX 250 in 1998. Kimmel won the pole for the race, but only completed 32 laps after being involved in an accident. Kimmel went on to win the 1998 ARCA Racing Series championship and since then has recorded eight more titles, earning consecutive crowns from 2000-2007.

“What I remember most about Texas is it’s a really fast track,” Kimmel, 48, said. “You carry a lot of momentum into the corners. The key is to carry speed into the turns, have a car that turns well and carry as much momentum as you can.

“I am excited to go back to Texas. I think it helps the series to go out West and race at these bigger tracks, like Texas Motor Speedway. Anytime we have the chance to race further west we are helping ARCA to grow and gain more exposure. It provides the development drivers a chance to race in front of the NASCAR teams and get a little more exposure, but for myself I am racing because I love the ARCA Series. I want to win my 10th ARCA championship and doing well at this track will be an important step toward that goal.”

The series, established in 1953, has raced at more than 200 tracks in 26 states and Canada. The series has helped develop numerous NASCAR drivers including current stars **Tony Stewart, Mark Martin, Kyle Busch** and **Ryan Newman**.

“Texas Motor Speedway is a great track in an important market,” ARCA President **Ron Drager** said. “The opportunity to return to Texas after more than 10 years and work with the Speedway Motorsports team is a great one for everybody involved in the ARCA Racing Series Presented by RE/MAX and Menards.”

ARCA drivers begin Thursday with practice from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. CT and qualifying at 4:30 p.m. CT. Tickets for the Rattlesnake 150 can be purchased by calling (817) 215-8500 or visiting www.texasmotorspeedway.com.

★ No Place Like Home

For drivers **Nur Ali** and **Lance Fenton**, the Rattlesnake 150 gives them a chance to compete in front of their hometown crowd. Both Ali and Fenton took part in a



Nur Ali



Lance Fenton

test session last month to prepare for the upcoming race and are looking forward to competing in their first ARCA race in Texas.

Ali, the first Asian-American stock car driver in the ARCA Racing Series, has raced on Texas Motor Speedway’s road course while competing in the Star Mazda Series, but has yet to compete on the 1.5-mile oval. Ali moved from Pakistan to Fort Worth in 1983 and graduated from Trinity High School.

“When I jumped into a stock car a couple of years ago at Daytona, which was my first try, it was amazing,” Ali said. “I fell in love with it. When I found out the ARCA series was coming back to Texas, my family and I were ecstatic. Being able to run in a stock car during a NASCAR weekend is going to be very exciting.”



SAMSUNG MOBILE 500 WEEKEND AT-A-GLANCE

TOMORROW: Credentials office open, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: TMS credentials office open, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

THURSDAY: TMS credentials office open, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.; ARCA Final Practice 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.; The Dallas Morning News Qualifying Day for the ARCA Racing Series, 4:30 p.m.; NASCAR Nationwide Series Practice, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

SATURDAY: TMS credentials office open, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Practice, 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.; NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Final Practice, 12:50 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.; O’Reilly Auto Parts 300 NASCAR Nationwide Series race (200 laps, 300 miles), 2:30 p.m. Race broadcast partners: TV – ESPN2 (national/local) Radio – PRN (national)/KRLD The FAN 105.3 FM (local).

SUNDAY: TMS credentials office open, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Peter Frampton Concert, 12:30 p.m.; Samsung Mobile 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race (334 laps, 501 miles), 2 p.m. Race broadcast partners: TV – FOX (national/local) Radio – PRN (national)/KRLD The FAN 105.3 FM (local).

NOTE: All Times Central.

Season ticket packages for the 2010 season are available by calling (817) 215-8500 or by visiting www.texasmotorspeedway.com.

Fenton, from Tyler, says racing close to home provides some added pressure to perform, but he's definitely looking forward to his first opportunity to compete at Texas Motor Speedway.

"When you race in front of a hometown crowd, you put the pressure on yourself because you want to run up front," Fenton said. "It's definitely an intense amount of pressure to try and accomplish a good finish for the people that you've got coming. Getting to come out here and experience it at this level is just awesome – a dream come true."

★ Gaining Seat Time

While many NASCAR Camping World Truck Series drivers are enjoying time off this weekend, **Ricky Carmichael** is taking advantage of the break and gaining seat time by competing in Friday's Rattlesnake 150.



Ricky Carmichael

"Texas is one of my favorite race tracks we visit on the circuit," Carmichael said. "The track is very wide, which allows you to move around and not have to stick to one lane. That makes for side-by-side racing during the race which is great for the fans."

Carmichael, who made the transition to NASCAR after an illustrious career in motocross racing, is currently seventh in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series standings. Carmichael has four career starts in the ARCA Racing Series, with a best finish of fourth.

"Seat time for me is everything right now," Carmichael said. "The Monster Energy car will be fast and I am taking my truck crew with me so

nothing is really changing. We're going to win the race and I think we have a really good chance to do so."

★ Dream Come True

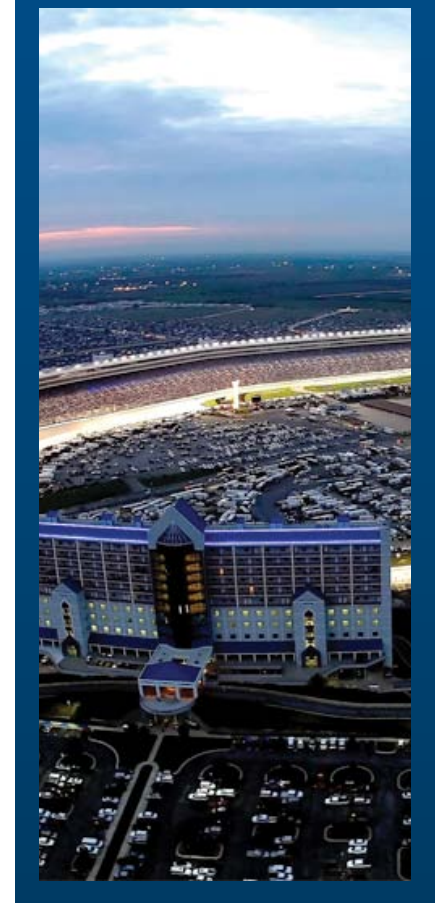
Canadian driver **Steve Arpin** has always dreamed of being a professional race car driver and with his success in ARCA racing, it looks like his dreams are materializing.

Arpin made his ARCA debut last year and finished seventh in the point standings behind 11 top-10 finishes. Arpin earned his first career ARCA victory Sunday at Salem Speedway and has finished 10th (Daytona) and fifth (Palm Beach) in his other two starts.

"The 1.5-mile tracks are my favorite on the schedule," Arpin said. "Even though we haven't raced there yet, Texas is already at the top of my list of favorite tracks we've been to. I think it



Steve Arpin



makes for some of the best racing and is definitely exciting for the fans. Hopefully we can keep each and every person in the stands on their feet all race long and kick off the NASCAR weekend with a real bang.”

Arpin has climbed the ranks of go-karts, snowmobile racing and dirt track racing before transitioning to ARCA. He also will look to make three NASCAR Nationwide Series starts before going full-time in the Nationwide Series in 2011.

“The ARCA series is a great development series for up-and-coming drivers,” Arpin said. “I have been a dirt racer my whole life and this has been a great place for me to learn asphalt racing before moving on to the NASCAR Nationwide Series. Having the opportunity to race at places like Texas Motor Speedway will only help with that transition, especially with the testing ban in NASCAR.

“It is also great having the opportunity to be a part of such a huge weekend here. It’s a perfect time and place for me to showcase my talents and also marketability to the teams that I hope to drive for, to the fans who work so hard to come out and watch, and also to sponsors involved in the sport. It’s just all around a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

★ Last Lap . . .

Morgan Kirby, of Glen Rose, Texas, will perform the National Anthem during Friday’s pre-race ceremonies for the Rattlesnake 150. Kirby, 9, was runner up in the National Anthem Hometown Hero competition held Saturday at Texas Motor



Free Reign

Speedway. . . Free Reign, a heavy metal band featuring hulking Dallas Cowboys offensive linemen **Marc Colombo**, **Leonard Davis** and **Cory Proctor** along with guitarist **Justin Chapman**, will serve as the Grand Marshals of the Rattlesnake 150 ARCA Racing Series presented by RE/MAX and Menards race and give the starting command to the field. In addition, Colombo will serve as the Honorary Starter and wave the green flag from the flag stand to start the Rattlesnake 150. Free Reign is visiting as special guests of ARCA driver **Joey Coulter** and will watch the race from his pits.

For Additional Information

Please contact the Texas Motor Speedway Media Relations Department at (817) 215-8520 or pr@texasmotorspeedway.com.

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