

MAZDA RACEWAY TO WELCOME LONG-LOST MAZDA RACER

USING HISTORY TO INSPIRE THE FUTURE, MAZDA RETURNS ICONIC 767B RACECAR TO THE TRACK

IRVINE, Calif. (August 10, 2016) – Earlier this year Mazda celebrated the 25th anniversary of its 1991 Le Mans win in the iconic green and orange Mazda 787B. While the 787B is the crown jewel of Mazda's global vintage racecar collection, there were others that paved the way. One such car was the Mazda 767B which competed at Le Mans in 1989.

Now, 27 years later, after a two-year restoration, it is part of Mazda North American Operations (MNAO)'s collection, and will return to the track at the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion August 19-21, at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.

As with the 1990 787 Group C, 1991 RX-7 IMSA GTO and 1992 RX-792P racecars in MNAO's Heritage Collection, the experts at Downing/Atlanta took the responsibility to return the 767B to race-ready condition. Under the watchful eyes of Mazda racing stalwarts Jim Downing and Rick Engman, the car was taken down to a bare tub and rebuilt piece by piece. The team built the four-rotor 13J engine specifically for this car, and it delivers all the power, torque and noise it did when the car raced in-period.

Support of motorsports comes from the top within Mazda. According to president and CEO of Mazda North American Operations (MNAO) and managing executive officer, Mazda Motor Corporation (MC), Masahiro Moro, "Mazda has a never give up attitude and it is exemplified in the 767B. The race track is the perfect environment to showcase our history of continuous innovation. We use our historic racecars, not as static reminders of the past, but rolling, screaming, fire-breathing brand ambassadors for the future."

Ken Saward, design manager, MNAO, in Irvine, California, has worked with the Mazda Motorsports team for many years, and has been given the honor of piloting the 767B in Monterey. Saward brings many years of experience in Spec Miata and endurance racing to his new challenge.

Saward noted: "It's unbelievable how motorsports and automotive technology has evolved over the past three decades. We see things that were once only found on exotic race cars now on affordable street cars. As a designer, our unique racing history really does inspire us to take chances with design for future cars. I couldn't be more honored or thrilled that Mazda has entrusted me with this incredible piece of company racing history."

Chassis History:

Chassis 767B-002 is powered by a four-rotor 13J putting out a healthy 630 horsepower. This chassis was first raced at the Fuji 1000 km in 1989, where it won the IMSA GTP class. Early in 1989, it acquired its iconic green and orange "Charge" livery, one of the products of the Renown company.

The full race record for the car is as follows:

1989 Fuji 1000 Km. JSPC (30 April), #202, 9th overall, 1st IMSA GTP, Yojiro Terada / Takashi Yorino / Yoshimi Katayama

1989 Le Mans WSPC (10-11 June), #202, 9th overall, 2nd IMSA GTP, Takashi Yorino / Herve Regout / Elliott Forbes-Robinson

1989 Fuji 500 Miles JSPC (23 July), #202, 7th overall, 2nd IMSA GTP, Yojiro Terada / Takashi Yorino / Yoshimi Katayama

1989 Fuji 1000 Km. JSPC (8 Oct.), #202, 10th overall, 1st IMSA GTP, Takashi Yorino / David Kennedy

1989 Suzuka 1000 Km. JSPC (3 Dec.), #202, DNF, gearbox, Yojiro Terada / Takashi Yorino / Yoshimi Katayama

1990 Fuji 500 Km. JSPC (11 March), #202, 9th overall, 1st IMSA GTP, Yojiro Terada / Yoshimi Katayama / Pierre Dieudonne

WSPC = World Sports Prototype Championship

JSPC = All-Japan Sports Prototype Championship

About Mazda Motorsports

Mazda Motorsports boasts the most comprehensive auto racing development ladder system of any auto manufacturer in the world. The Mazda Road to 24 program offers a number of scholarships to advance drivers up the sports car racing ladder, beginning with the Global MX-5 Cup series and culminating with the Mazda Prototype team. The Mazda Road to Indy is a similar program that includes Mazda-powered categories of USF2000, Pro Mazda and Indy Lights. In grassroots road racing, more Mazdas race on any given weekend in North America than any other manufacturer. Mazda is also the title sponsor of the renowned Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in Monterey, Calif. Follow all of the latest news at MazdaMotorsports.com, @MazdaRacing on Twitter, and MazdaMotorsports on Instagram and Facebook.

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