



For Immediate Release:

Huge opening weekend for the Monster Energy-Wide Open CORR Pro-2 Race team!

April 22, 2007- Lancaster, CA

The 2007 opening weekend of CORR racing proved to be one of the most exciting weekends of racing in a long time! Jerry Whelchel, driving the #41 Monster Energy-Wide Open Pro-2 Ford race truck, took over the Antelope Valley race track and came out on top of the point standings.

Friday started out a little rough for the race team as they were chasing motor problem discovered after the first practice. "The altitude here at the track was more than we anticipated," said Wide Open Crew Chief Tommy Morris, "But we've got our engine builder, Patton Racing Engines, here to get us all straightened out."

Going into the qualifying round Whelchel still wasn't satisfied with the truck, but managed to qualify in the 4th position. "It felt like the Monster Energy-Wide Open truck wouldn't go past 50% throttle, so I guess qualifying 4th isn't so bad," Whelchel disappointingly said about his starting position. But his suspicions were correct about the throttle being blocked. Somehow the throttle cable got kinked and the truck only had about 50% of its potential power supply. Wide Open Team Manager Joshua Nettles enthusiastically said, "We're probably going to have a long night hunting down the little gremlins that affected the trucks performance today, but we've got plenty of Monster Energy on ice to keep us going and we'll work it all out!"

Saturday got off to a rockin' start with the Monster Energy-Wide Open pits opening up with a live DJ spinning the tunes and Wahoo's Fish Tacos being grilled up fresh to order. But under the tent, the crew was feverishly hammering away on the race truck getting it ready for the all-important first race of the season.

The crowds surged around the Monster Energy-Wide Open pits as camera crews and reporters were in and out interviewing Whelchel and the team. As fans got their shirts, posters, and hats autographed, Whelchel told reporters, "First and foremost I want to thank the fans for all of their support of the sport and our team. We've gathered a great group of partners with Monster Energy, BFGoodrich Tires, KMC Wheels, SnugTop and most recently Precision Gear and Ironclad Apparel to build a remarkable team that's going to go out there and win some races."

As race time came around the intensity level was at an all-time high. The Wide Open crew was focused on one thing only, winning. As Whelchel pulled out of the pits to head to the start line the crowds cheered and hurried to find their seats in the grandstands.

Lining up at the start line, Le Mans style, the #41 Monster Energy-Wide Open truck was between an impressive group of veteran drivers. To the left of Whelchel in the 1st through 3rd positions were Rob MacCahren, Ricky Johnson, and 2006 CORR Pro-2 Champion Carl Renezeder.

Whelchel knew he was in for a battle as he prepared for what would turn out to be one of the most exciting races of the weekend.

Once the green flag dropped, over 11,000 horsepower of 13 trucks roared into the first turn with MacCachren still in the lead and Whelchel falling back one position to 5th. By lap three it wasn't looking good for the #41 Monster Energy truck as Whelchel had dropped back to 9th place. But then, as if he flipped the switch to on, Whelchel started passing competitors one after another. On lap 4 a rollover wreck in turn 6 brought out a full course caution tightening up the field of race trucks. This gave Whelchel his chance to gain some momentum. When the green flag waved the #41 truck immediately overtook two positions catapulting Whelchel into 7th position and back into the hunt for the lead. "Passing those two trucks on the re-start really got my confidence up," Whelchel said after the race. "After that I was able to just start working my way through the field." And work his way through the field he did! Laps 8-15 he gained one position per lap fighting his way into 2nd place with 2 laps left. Setting the race lap record for speed and time he was gaining on the first place Rob MacCachren fast. Coming around the final turn on the last lap the #41 Monster Energy truck was side by side the #29 truck of MacCachren. Whelchel was doing everything he could to take the lead, but MacCachren was able to hold his line and the two trucks charged past the checkered flag with Whelchel only 7/10's of a second behind.

On the podium Whelchel excitedly reported, "What a race! It's amazing how you can get a little rusty in a matter of months. But about halfway through the race I got back in the groove and started feeling good and just kept passing guys. The Monster Energy may have kicked in or something! I want to thank Wide Open for putting together an awesome program with Monster Energy, BFGoodrich Tires, KMC Wheels, Precision Gear, SnugTop and Ironclad. Today the BFGoodrich tires and KMC Wheels hooked up on this track! I was able to drive by everyone...everyone should go out and buy a set tonight!"

Back in the pits plans were already in the works for changes to the truck to improve upon the 2nd place finish. "We are still going to make some adjustments to the motor and see if we can get some more power out of it," Tommy Morris said, "but other than that the truck seemed to be set up pretty good." It was a relative early night for the crew as they knew they were only a third of the way through the weekend with two races left on Sunday.

Sunday's excitement started off with the arrival of NASCAR racer Robby Gordon who came straight from finishing 24th at Phoenix on Saturday night. "Having Robby here is going to be fun," Whelchel said during an interview Sunday morning, "he's a great competitor and we used to race together back in the Mickey Thompson days, so it'll be good to see him on the track again."

The first action on the track started off with the Pro-2 qualifying rounds for the Jason Baldwin Memorial Cup race slated to take place later in the afternoon. Running in the second group of four trucks Whelchel in the Monster Energy-Wide Open truck set the track on fire! He went out and set the Pro-2 track record with an awesome 53.850 lap time. After qualifying back in the pits Whelchel says about his fast time, "The truck is perfect. I know I have the best crew out here and they have got this truck running better than it's ever run before. I just want to shout out Chris Supino, Matt Cruson, Don Frick, Will and Garrett Crosby, Marco Guerrero, Sergio Nunez and Chuy Nunez. Oh yeah and Tommy Morris our Crew Chief and Josh Nettles our manager. Thanks for everything you guys do!"

The Monster Energy-Wide Open crew definitely knows what it's doing. After qualifying 1st for the Sunday races the excitement was off the Richter scale! The crew, fans, media, and other racers were ecstatic about the success of the weekend so far.

At the start line for the second CORR Championship points race of the weekend things were a little different. Whelchel had his game face on. "Being in the top position is exactly where I want to be," the Monster Energy driver said. "But everyone is going to be gunning for my spot and I'm going to have to keep focused and watch my back."

Watching his back is exactly what Whelchel did! As soon as the green flag waved he tore away from the rest of the field and didn't look back. At times the #41 truck had as much as an 8 car length lead over the nearest competitor. During the 3rd lap of the race Rob MacCachren driving the #29 Red Bull truck was in second place trying to give Whelchel and the Monster Energy Ford some competition. A couple of times MacCachren was able to get side by side with Whelchel, but each time he wasn't able to pass the #41 Monster Energy truck.

Whelchel crossed the finish line, pulled in front of the crowd and had his chance to jump up and down on the top of his truck. The crowd was roaring as Speed Channel reporter Kelli Stavast pulled Whelchel away from the high-fives and hugs from sponsors and teammates. "Now that was some racing! Rob [MacCachren] was super fast and my spotter kept telling me to protect my lines and drive my race," Whelchel said excitedly. "When I heard Robby [Gordon] broke I knew I couldn't let up because there are so many other good drivers out there that could have caught us!" Crew Chief, Tommy Morris, told television crews, "The BFGoodrich Tires are really holding up great for us and getting the right amount of traction. Everything on the truck is perfect from the Precision Gear ring and pinions to the Rancho Drivetrain Engineering transmissions. Thanks to all the great partners Wide Open has on this CORR program for all of your hard work and getting us to the top of the podium!"

With one more race to go the team was confident, but not cocky. "We're on top right now, but we know that every other team out there is wrenching away and doing everything they can to take us down," said crew member Chris Supino. Once again the crew swarmed the race truck to get it ready for the final showdown of the weekend, the Jason Baldwin Memorial race.

The Jason Baldwin Memorial race is in memory of famed racer Jason Baldwin and has a purse of \$6,600 per race, winner take all. It is in its self its own championship with points accumulating over the season leading up to the Jason Baldwin Memorial Cup race in Nevada on November 4, 2007. That race will have both Pro-4 (4 wheel drive) and Pro-2 (rear wheel drive) trucks racing against each other for a winner take all purse of \$66,000. The number 66 represents Jason Baldwin's race number on his CORR truck and desert racing trucks. NBC Sports will air each Jason Baldwin Memorial race the following Sunday afternoon.

The starting grid of the Jason Baldwin Memorial race mirrored the start of the previous race with Whelchel in first place, Robby Gordon in second place, and Rob MacCachren in third place. As soon as the race started Whelchel and Gordon pulled away from the pack with MacCachren following closely behind in 3rd. Coming out of turn 3 Gordon pulled in front of Whelchel taking the lead and holding onto it for four laps. Whelchel doing everything he could to pass Gordon got the crowd on their feet as he dove to the inside of each turn looking for a hole to open up. Then on Lap 5 Whelchel's BFGoodrich Tires found the traction to pass Gordon on the straight away jump and when Gordon landed his rear suspension gave away putting him out of the race. Whelchel pulled away from the pack putting a three second lead on the 2nd place truck of MacCachren. By lap 13 of the 15 lap race Carl Renezeder and Supercross Legend Ricky Johnson

had caught up to Whelchel with Johnson challenging Whelchel for the lead on the final lap. The Monster Energy truck bested them all again though, winning the race with a one second lead over 2nd place Johnson with Renezedder coming in 3rd.

“What a great weekend for the Monster Energy-Wide Open race team. Once again I have to thank Monster for giving us the opportunity to represent the best energy drink brand on the planet! Wide Open Baja for giving me the opportunity to race again and putting together the number one team! BFGoodrich and KMC Wheels for building products that actually hold up to our style of driving. SungTop, Precision Gear and Ironclad Apparel for outfitting our team with the tools necessary to stand here on the top of this podium,” Whelchel told the NBC commentators after the race.

Watch Jerry Whelchel and the Monster Energy-Wide Open CORR Pro-2 team Unleash the Beast on Saturday, April 28, 2007 on NBC Sports nationwide at 2-3pm eastern standard time.

For more information visit:

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