

Ten Make Up NASCAR's Diversity Field

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR and Revolution Racing announced the 2011 driver lineup — the eighth

NASCAR

season for the Drive for Diversity (D4D) program — during NASCAR's annual Sprint Media Tour at the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Ten drivers will participate in the 2011 Drive for Diversity Program — four in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East and six in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series.

Last year, former Dale Earnhardt, Inc. President Max Siegel created the Revolution Racing team along with former DEI and Robby Gordon Motorsports executive John Story. All 10 drivers will race for the team, which is headquartered in Mooresville, N.C.



HHP/CHRISTIA L. THOMAS PHOTO

DIVERSE GROUP: Members of the 2011 Drive for Diversity Program pose for a picture Jan. 26 at the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

The drivers are:

Jorge Arteaga of Aguascalientes, Mexico, will race in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series; Mackena Bell of Carson City, Nev., returns to the Drive for Diversity Program for a second season and will race in the NASCAR Whelen All-

American Series; Jessica Brunelli of Hayward, Calif., will race in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series; Michael Cherry of Valrico, Fla., returns to the Drive for Diversity Program for a third season and will race in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East; Trey Gibson

of Easley, S.C., will race in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series; Ryan Gifford of Winchester, Tenn., returns to the Drive for Diversity Program for a second season, racing in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East; Tayla Orleans of Randleman, N.C., will race in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series; Bryan Ortiz of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, will race in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series; Sergio Peña of Winchester, Va., returns to the Drive for Diversity Program for a second season and will race in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East; Darrell Wallace, Jr. of Mobile, Ala., will race in the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East and returns to the Drive for Diversity Program for a second season.

Hoffman, Voglers Honored During HARF Banquet

By Mike O'Leary
NSSN CORRESPONDENT

INDIANAPOLIS — Gus Hoffman and Eleanor and Don Vogler were inducted into the Hoosier Auto Racing Fans Hall of Fame during the organization's 59th annual awards banquet Sunday.

Hoffman was a car owner who fielded championship sprint cars, midgets and Indy cars. D. Vogler was an accom-

plished midget racer and E. Vogler founded the Rich Vogler Scholarship Fund.

Jon Stanbrough was honored as the HARF Driver of the Year, the fourth time he has been honored with the award. Brad Marvel went home with the Emma and Joie Ray Award for Courage and Joe Liguori won the Jimmy Caruthers Memorial Award for the Most Improved Driver. The Rookie of the Year Award went to Wes McIntyre and Media Award honors to

Sean Buckley for his video "Follow The Corn."

In other awards, Dan Drinan was honored for Mechanical Achievement; Bloomington Speedway's Mike Miles took home the Promoter's Option; and Bill Walls received the Gene Powlen Fan Appreciation Award.

Champions from IndyCar, USAC, MSCS, HOSS, UMARA and USSA, as well as those from area race tracks, were recognized during the ceremony hosted by emcee Danny Williams.

FORCE:

New Roles For Force Hood, Hight And Antonelli

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Force will drive his daughter's car, inheriting Dean "Guido" Antonelli and Ron Douglas as his crew chiefs.

The reigning champion and JFR boss's Ford Mustang Funny Car fleet, machine shop, transporters and Eric Medlen Project all sit in cold Brownsburg, Ind., awaiting the start of the NHRA Full Throttle Drag Racing Series season.

Among the announcements made Jan. 25 was Hight's promotion to president of JFR, Antonelli's elevation to general manager of the John Force Racing Brownsburg facility, and a traveling road show designed to promote drag racing, as well as youngest daughter Courtney's on-track progress report.

Courtney Force will not compete in the Funny Car class this season, but might enter a couple of races toward the end of the schedule. She will test on Mondays following selected races for most of the year.

For the past three seasons, she has developed as a driver behind the wheel of a Jerry Darien-tuned Top Alcohol Dragster. It is the same path her sister and Top Fuel drivers Brandon Bernstein and Morgan Lucas followed. In 2009, Courtney Force won at Seattle and reached the final round at Pomona, Calif., in the season-closer. Last year, with her sister and Hight coaching her, she began learning every facet of her new ride.

"I am getting familiar with the feel of the brake, the steering and the levers, since they are all different from my dragster," Courtney Force said. "Hitting the throttle was a huge rush, and I am excited to start testing in February."

Force Hood still owns the NHRA Funny Car national speed record at 316.38 miles per hour. And her life

still is moving at a nitro-powered pace. She told reporters at the organization's Southern California headquarters and hundreds of media members and fans watching live on the Internet about her family plans just moments after informing members of her Castrol GTX team of the news via satellite hook-up at the John Force Racing East facility in Brownsburg.

"This past November, after watching my dad clinch his 15th championship, Dan and I decided we would try to start a family," she said. "We knew it was unlikely to happen in such a short amount of time and if it didn't, I could still race the 2011 season and we'd try again next winter."

"We felt that if God wanted it to happen, it would happen. Well, God didn't waste any time, and I am pregnant and due at the end of the summer," Force Hood said.

The development represents a hiatus only for Force Hood.

"She wants that championship. She's just got a little detour," her father said.