

Lotus Makes Successful Comeback - Racing in America

by Lotus Cars USA, Inc.

Lotus will return to the race tracks and street courses of America campaigning three 1991 Lotus Esprit Turbo SE race cars.

Sports is at a time where it is fashionable for making comebacks, with the likes of Mark Spitz and George Foreman making headlines. However, Lotus beat everyone to the winners circle in 1990, winning four races, six pole positions, three top ten finishes and three top five finishes after a 25 year absence from American road racing.

The 1991 Lotusport Team will return to Sears Point Raceway on May 4th, and will attempt to repeat its historical winning performance of 1990. With only fourteen laps of testing before the season's first race at Sears Point Raceway, a Lotus Esprit Turbo SE qualified fifth and went on to win, adding yet another notch in Lotus racing history.

The elite Lotus team will once again compete against a full field of American and imported car manufacturers battling for the Manufacturers, Drivers and Team Championship titles. Lotusport, Inc., from Atlanta, Georgia owns and operates the three car team and will campaign them in the 1991 Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) Escort World Challenge Series.

The 1991 driver lineup will include stars that have winning results on and off the track. Doc Bundy, who finished second in the 1990 point chase will be joined by professional drivers and actors Paul Newman, Bobby Carradine and Michael Brockman. Bundy's teammates have extensive racing and winning experience as professional race car drivers. The star studded team will surely provide American racing enthusiasts with an exciting show on and off the track in the ten race series.

Carradine, Newman and Brockman have competed in American and imported cars - the same cars, as Lotus drivers, that they will now compete against.

Lotus Cars USA, Inc., in Lawrenceville, Georgia, and Lotus Cars and Engineering, in Norfolk, England will provide technical support to the team. Former Formula One driver, John Miles will also be on staff to once again provide the team with his valuable engineering and driving talent. Miles returned to racing in 1990 with the 24-Hours of Mosport in a Lotus Esprit. The Lotus Team finished sixth after entering the first 24-Hour race since the last 24-Hour win for Lotus at Le Mans in 1964.

"For years Lotus road cars have benefitted from on-track experience. We have already made changes to our production cars with the knowledge that we obtained from the 1990 racing season," said Lotus Cars USA, Inc., President Ronald Foster.

Carradine summarized his involvement with the Lotusport Team: "I think it's really great to drive a car as special as a Lotus. It really stands alone on and off the track with its' aerodynamic look and its fast pace. My goal this year is to repeat the 1990 winning performance, keep it up front, and get Lotus to the winners circle."