

MAZDASPEED

MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Contact: Dean Case, MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development Communications,
(310) 318-4582, dean@rwb-llc.com
Jeremy Barnes, Mazda North American Operations,
(949) 727-6844, jbarnes5@mazdausa.com

SPEEDSOURCE CASTROL SYNTEC MAZDA RX-8 WINS GT CLASS AT 2008 ROLEX 24 AT DAYTONA

- 22nd Win in Endurance Classic for Mazda since 1975 –

January 27, 2008 (Daytona Beach, Fla). After 24 hours of close competition among 41 cars, the SpeedSource Castrol Syntec Mazda RX-8 team won the GT class at the Rolex 24 at Daytona to kick off the 2008 GrandAm season. The SpeedSource driving team of Sylvain Tremblay, David Haskell, Nick Ham, and Raphael Matos started from the pole, and led 323 of 664 laps, on their way to ninth overall and the class win.

The race was a severe strategic challenge as there were intermittent rain showers for over half of the race and a total of 24 caution periods, many the result of on track incidents. The SpeedSource team was challenged by the slippery conditions with multiple spins, one of which resulted in minor body damage to the rear of the car including a broken taillamp. Other than the taillamp however, the rotary-powered Mazda ran flawlessly throughout the day-night-day race.

The SpeedSource Mazda team beat the runner-up Porsche by over five laps. The win was the 22nd class win at the race for Mazda and ended a lengthy winning streak by Porsche at the biggest 24 hour race in America. Along the way, the SpeedSource number 70 car beat over two dozen Porsche 911 GT-3s, a handful of Pontiacs, a pair of Ferrari 430 Challenges, a Corvette, and a BMW M6. There were a total of 55 lead changes among 10 cars in the class, but no one could pass the RX-8 for the final 185 laps.

“This was a great win for the entire SpeedSource team. Endurance racing in particular is a team sport and I am so proud of our collective effort. Thanks especially to our new partners at Castrol, who believed in our ability to deliver. Thanks also to Fresh from Florida for their support of our in-car camera, as well as the many rotary enthusiasts who have supported our efforts,” remarked SpeedSource owner/engineer/driver Sylvain Tremblay.

Backing up the Castrol Syntec RX-8 were two other SpeedSource-built RX-8s in the top ten. Finishing fifth in the GT class was the SpeedSource FXDD RX-8 of Emil Assentato, Jeff Segal, Nick Longhi, and Lonnie Pechnik. The final top-ten car was the RX-8 of Racers Edge Motorsports driven by Ken Dobson, Robert Thorne, Craig Stone and Drew Staveley.

2008 Rolex 24 at Daytona Mazda Team Recap

Team	Sponsor	Drivers	Qualified	Finished	Notes
SpeedSource #70	Castrol Syntec and MAZDASPEED	Sylvain Tremblay, David Haskell, Nick Ham, and Raphael Matos	1st	1st	Early battle with Porsches and Pontiacs followed by domination of the final seven hours en-route to the first win by the team in the 24 Hour classic.
SpeedSource #69	FXDD	Emil Assentato, Jeff Segal, Nick Longhi, and Lonnie Pechnik	16th	5th	Ran solidly in the top-ten all day.
Racers Edge Motorsports #30	Guardian Edge Technologies, Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts, and Michael Spain-Smith Studios	Ken Dobson, Robert Thorne, Craig Stone and Drew Staveley	8th	10th	A solid top-ten finish. A potential top-five was derailed after crash damage caused an electrical problem.
Hyper-Sport #40	SoBe Life Water	Patrick Dempsey, Charles Espenlaub, Joe Foster, Romeo Kapudija, and Scott Maxwell	25th	24th	An early race cut tire resulted in a damaged oil cooler and the loss of 40+ laps for repairs. The team used the balance of the race as an extended test session.
Goldin Brothers #08	CCM Cellular	Steve Goldin, Keith Goldin, Jim Meassick, and Squeak Kennedy	40th	39th	Handling difficulties resulted in the car being retired from the race after 83 laps.

22 Mazda powered class wins at the Rolex 24 at Daytona

1975	Ray Walle, Tom Reddy	RX-3	1 st in GTU Touring (14 th overall)
1979	Yoshimi Katayama, Yojiro Terada, Takashi Yorino	RX-7	1 st in GTU (5 th overall)
1982	Yoshimi Katayama, Yojiro Terada, Takashi Yorino	RX-7	1 st in GTO (4 th overall)
1982	Kathy Rude*, Lee Mueller, Allan Moffett * First ever class win for a woman in IMSA history.	RX-7	1 st in GTU (6 th overall)
1983	Pete Halsmer, Bob Reed, Rick Knoop, Tom Gloy	RX-7	1 st in GTO (3 rd overall)
1983	Lee Mueller, Hugh McDonough, Terry Visger	RX-7	1 st in GTU (12 th overall)
1984	Ira Young, Bob Reed, Jack Baldwin, Jim Cook	RX-7	1 st in GTU (12 th overall)
1985	Kelly Marsh, Ron Pawley, Don Marsh	Argo-Mazda	1 st in Lights (10 th overall)
1985	Amos Johnson, Jack Dunham, Yojiro Terada	RX-7	1 st in GTU (12 th overall)
1986	Frank Rubino, Ray Mummery, John Schneider	Argo-Mazda	1 st in Lights (7 th overall)
1986	Amos Johnson, Dennis Shaw, Jack Dunham	RX-7	1 st in GTU (8 th overall)
1987	Amos Johnson, Dennis Shaw, Bob Lazier	RX-7	1 st in GTU (10 th overall)
1988	Amos Johnson, Dennis Shaw, Bob Lazier	RX-7	1 st in GTU (15 th overall)
1989	Al Bacon, Bob Reed, Rod Millen	RX-7	1 st in GTU (12 th overall)
1990	John Grooms, Michael Greenfield, Frank Jellinek Jr. Peter Greenfield	Argo-Mazda	1 st in Lights (9 th overall)
1990	Peter Uria, Bob Dotson, Jim Pace	RX-7	1 st in GTU (12 th overall)
1991	Dick Greer, Al Bacon, Mike Mees, Peter Uria	RX-7	1 st in GTU (13 th overall)
1992	Al Bacon, Dick Greer, Mike Mees, Peter Uria	RX-7	1 st in GTU (7 th overall)
1993	John Grooms, Frank Jellinek Jr., Jim Downing Tim McAdam	Kudzu-Mazda	1 st in Lights (7 th overall)
1993	Dick Greer, Al Bacon, Peter Uria, Mike Mees	RX-7	1 st in GTU (9 th overall)
2001	Howard Katz, Jim Downing, AJ Smith, Chris Ronson	Kudzu-Mazda	1 st in SRP (11 th overall)
2008	Sylvain Tremblay, David Haskell, Nick Ham, Raphael Matos	RX-8	1 st in GT (9 th overall)

Mazda is the brand of choice for road-racers across North America. More than 9,000 grassroots racers compete in various classes with the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) and the National Auto Sport Association (NASA). Racers who are years away from earning a driver's license can now begin their professional motorsports careers in the Mazda family. A driver can begin in karts and progress through the Skip Barber series, Club Racing Formula Mazda, professional Star Mazda and finally to Formula Atlantic, ALL with Mazda. No other car company has ever connected the dots this way.

On any given weekend, there are more Mazdas on the road-race tracks of America than any other brand of vehicle. At the track, you'll see MX-5 Miata, RX-8, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models competing, because every Mazda has the Soul of a Sports Car. In fact, the largest road-racing class in the world is Spec Miata, with more than 1,500 first- and second-generation Miatas tearing up America's racetracks, making it the most-raced production car in the world. Mazda's involvement in motorsports extends to its relationship with Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, one of the world's premier road-racing circuits, and the Skip Barber Schools for driving and racing.

Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., Mazda North American Operations oversees the sales, marketing, parts and customer service support of Mazda vehicles in the United States, Canada and Mexico through nearly 900 dealers. Operations in Canada are managed by Mazda Canada, Inc., located in Ontario, Canada, and in Mexico by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City.

###

For more information on Mazda products, visit the online Mazda media center at www.MazdaUSAMedia.com

For more information on *MAZDASPEED* Motorsports Development, visit www.MAZDASPEEDMotorsports.com