

RACING 101 – ABOUT THE GS AND ST CLASSES

Grand Sport – GS

The Grand Sport (GS) class is made up of several factory sports and muscle cars from around the world with minimal performance modifications, but full safety systems. Minimum weights range from 2,900 lbs. to 3,300 lbs.

Engines are tuned to produce between 350 and 405 horsepower depending on the car, and the competition is further equalized by a variety of fuel tank capacities that range from 19 gallons for the Porsche 997 to 20 gallons for the BMW M3, Pontiac GTO, Cadillac CTS-V and Ford Mustang. Top speed for most GS cars is 160 mph.



Street Tuner – ST

The Street Tuner (ST) class features a variety of sports cars and high-performance compacts that are as equally popular with KONI Challenge Series competitors as they are with today's consumers. Unlike the bigger GS class where V-8s are allowed, ST is limited to four- and six-cylinder engines, although turbochargers and superchargers are permitted.

Engines produce between 170 and 240 horsepower depending on the car, while minimum weights range from 2,200 lbs. to 3,125 lbs. Fuel tank capacities range from 16.9 gallons to 17.9 gallons Mazda RX-8. Most competing ST cars have 17-gallon fuel tanks, including the Acura RSX-S, and the BMW 330i. Other popular vehicles in the ST class include the Chevrolet Cobalt SS Supercharged, Acura TSX, Subaru Legacy and the Mini Cooper S. Like the GS class, the only major modifications allowed in ST are in the area of safety. Top speed for ST race cars is about 135 mph.



CHAPLAINS "TEND TO THE FLOCK" AT IOWA SPEEDWAY

By Brittany Westercamp

A Christian ministry team of chaplains and ambassadors is "carrying the message" to racing fans, teams, drivers and families at Iowa Speedway this season.

Pastor Mark Young, head of the First Christian Church in Newton serves as Director of Chaplains at Iowa Speedway. Although Young has been actively involved with the track for some time, his ministry team successfully held its first major non-denominational chapel service prior to the Iowa Corn Indy 250 IndyCar Series race on Sunday, June 22, 2008.

"Our chaplain ministry has gone very well and it's a very good program," Young said. "We are excited to provide this opportunity for fans of the Iowa Speedway and to give them the opportunity to pray and worship at the track. We had three chaplains and about 100 people at our IndyCar service at the concert stage. In addition, 13 church members served as "ambassadors" that weekend by operating an ADA shuttle service".

Pastor Young holds a Sunday morning worship service before race events begin. The non-denominational gathering lasts for 20-30 minutes and includes music, scripture and a brief sermon. The Sunday morning service provides drivers, teams and their families a place to join together, worship and pray.

Pastor Young and his team are also active during pre-race ceremonies at by delivering the Invocation Prayer for drivers and fans right before the singing of the National Anthem. The team also shares "quiet time" and offers individual prayers with drivers asking for safety and protection throughout the race and weekend.

So, besides being "America's Place to Race" Iowa Speedway is also becoming known as "America's Place to Pray" – thanks to a group of Iowa ministers and church folks intent upon "carrying the message" to those who will listen, pause, and pray.

