

Hale Motorsports adds Joey Jordan and Henry Morse to 2016 Pirelli World Challenge Line-up

Chasing Championships With Mazda in Both Touring Car and B-Spec Classes

2016 marks a major expansion for Hale Motorsports in the Pirelli World Challenge. Team owner Randy Hale has been a long time team owner, and driver, in the Pirelli World Challenge dating back over a decade. He originally competed in Ford Mustangs, making the transition into Mazda MX-5's after a successful effort in the Playboy Mazda MX-5 Cup. Randy has decided to add four-time Pirelli World Challenge race winner Joey Jordan as a team mate in one of his Touring Car Mazda MX-5's, while also adding 15-year-old karting champion Henry Morse into Jordan's race winning TCB (B-Spec) Mazda2. The three car Mazda effort plans to compete hard for two championships this year.

"I have been friends and worked with the Jordan family for years" shared Randy. "Joey's Uncle Jim Jordan raced one of my Mazda MX-5's back in the Playboy series, and Joey's Dad Joe has helped me out a few times over the years. When I saw Joey dominate the TCB class the last two weekends of 2015, I knew he needed a chance to move up and I am very happy to give Joey that opportunity."

Driving his familiar number 47, Joey hopes to pick right up where he left off last season. "I am so thankful to Randy and the faith he has put in me. I grew up racing Spec Miatas so it will be great to be racing the faster younger brother of my old Miata." Joey and Randy will both compete in the Touring Car class.

New to both the team and the series is newcomer Henry Morse. While only 15 years old, Morse has an extensive resume of karting championships and race wins and is making the transition to cars. "My Dad and I went to Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca for the season ending race for both the Mazda Road to Indy and the Pirelli World Challenge. When I saw the Touring Cars race, I knew I wanted to be in one of those cars. I am so excited to drive the car that won all three races at Mazda Raceway!"

How does team owner Hale feel about having a team mate too young to drive a car on the street? "The Jordan's were involved with two tests with Morse and they told me he never put a wheel wrong. He was very quick. Henry and Joey quickly established a strong communications connection. Joe Jordan told me he was mature beyond his years, and I think he will make a great team mate. Everyone at the tests over the winter has promised me that Henry is capable of winning races and fighting for the Championship. At Hale Motorsports we feel confident that we can provide him with a proven winning car to do so."

It takes more than top driving talent to win races, and Hale Motorsports is adding a key person there too. Chief Engineer for the team will be Rob Baker. Baker is lead engineer on the Freedom Autosport team in IMSA. He has engineered race winning with Mazda MX-5's in the IMSA series. Since there are no date conflicts in the 2016 schedule, Baker will bring his technical talents over to Hale Motorsports. "Rob will bring so much to the team. He knows what it takes to win with these cars," said Randy. "I am not sure who I am more excited about adding to the team, Joey, Henry, or Rob!"

Also supporting Hale Motorsports will be top Mazda Tuner Derrick Ambrose. Ambrose owns one of the biggest Mazda performance companies in North America, CorkSport. He built the TCB winning Mazda2 and will be a major part of the Hale Motorsports Team. CorkSport will continue to be an associate sponsor on all three cars. More importantly, Ambrose will have a hands on role in working with Baker to ensure the cars have the strongest possible performance.

Hale has obvious reasons to be excited about the upcoming Pirelli World Challenge Season. As a long time competitor, the growth being shown in the series is impressive. “The WC Vision group has done such a great job with the Pirelli World Challenge. From partners like Pirelli to an amazing streaming and TV package, it offers such a great place to race and deliver both on track and off track value for Hale Racing. It motivates me to grow along with the series, and I am happy to have put this program together for 2016.”

The season kicks off March 3-5 at the Circuit of the Americas. The Touring car classes will then race at the Canadian Tire Motorsports Park, Road America, Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Utah Motorsports Campus before wrapping up at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca on October 7-9.

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