



Contact: Brandon Welch
858-414-1837
9520 Candida St., San Diego, CA 92126
brandon@ismsports.net

AFTER AN EVENTFUL TEST SESSION AND A LONG WINTER BEAL RACING RESUMES DEVELOPMENT OF PROTÉGÉ BRANDON WELCH

Following an eventful test session at Las Vegas Motor Speedway to close out 2006, Beal Racing spent a long winter building the business and preparing for a 2007 debut.

The team's last test session in Las Vegas was as eventful as one day at the track can be. "The first run of the day was my first ever launch in the race car," said Brandon Welch. "I hit the gas it was like being shot out of a cannon. It made a move right and I got off the throttle. I felt real comfortable in the car and couldn't wait to do it again."

Chuck Beal was extremely impressed by Brandon's first launch. "The kid did a great job." Beal added, "He showed tremendous concentration, calm and focus on what he had to do in the car, which are the most important traits of a good driver. I knew then that he would be okay driving this thing." Unfortunately, an ignition failure caused the team to abort its second run of the day.

The day also brought a different kind of training for Brandon – media relations. The *Driving Force* film crew was on hand all day to film the team and record Brandon's progress. As another young funny car driver just entering the professional ranks, *Driving Force* wanted to track Brandon's development as a privateer driver learning the ropes.

"I'm still new to being the center of attention, so it was quite an experience filming for *Driving Force*. The producers and crew were so enthusiastic and nice. We sure gave them a taste of what it's like at the other end of the financial spectrum. I'm not sure if the footage will survive the editing room and make it into the show, but either way it was a lot of fun," said Brandon.

After that eventful outing in Vegas, the team returned to its shop in San Diego, CA to prepare for more testing in 2007. With business and sponsorship opportunities taking both Chuck and Brandon's time, Chuck decided to forego preseason testing.

While still pursuing funding, Beal Racing is now aggressively preparing for testing opportunities in the coming months. Beal is confident in his young driver's potential and his team's ability to field a competitive race car. Beal Racing will continue testing until the team proves its competitiveness. "I know Brandon will be fine in the car, and I know we can field a car that can not only qualify and go rounds, but win races," said Beal. "That said, we will not compete until Brandon is comfortable in the seat and our car proves its competitiveness. I am not in the racing game to be cannon fodder for the other teams; I am in it to win!"

Beal Racing hasn't set a date to debut on the NHRA Powerade Drag Racing Series, but is optimistic about the future and excited to get back to testing.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABOUT BEAL RACING:

Beal Racing is a San Diego-based Nitro Funny Car team owned by 40-year drag racing veteran Chuck Beal. The team currently competes on the NHRA Powerade Drag Racing Series. For more information please visit www.ChuckBealRacing.com or contact Brandon Welch at (858) 414-1837.

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