Mason Racing News

Larry Mason Earns Podium at Long Beach!

At the 49th Annual Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach event in April, Larry Mason earned a second place finish in the Cooler Master Journalist Simulator Challenge. Cooler Master sells high-end simulator units with full motion control. After the media luncheon prior to the event weekend, the assembled media was invited to see how they could handle the Long Beach street circuit on the sim. Mason had an appointment pending with an interview with AJ Foyt Racing so he was only able to turn a few laps. He returned later that afternoon to find that he was second quick!

All the participants were behind the wheel of an Acura NSX GT car on the twisty simulated 1.968-mile street circuit. To make it a more immersive experience, a huge curved video screen and headphones ramped up the audio-

L Mason photo

Cooler Master's Karmel Humphrey gets the simulator ready for racing.

visual quotient. Mason was enthusiastic with the experience. "It was fun getting 'back on track' at Long Beach after so many years!"

Sonia's View

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Larry has a PI Data System in his Formula Mazda car. He has quite a few sensors: lap time, wheel speed, throttle position, steering wheel position, RPM, gear position, oil pressure, oil temperature, linear position (where he is on the track; this is not GPS) and water temperature. The central unit on board receives these data points and calculates a projected lap (or 'perfect' lap) of the best times at various points on track based on all the laps run during a session. For a lot of people, having this type of algorithm works best because all the hard work has been done by the PI Data System and given the short amount of time between sessions, this type of reporting helps move things quickly with driver/crew chief meetings. However, if we wanted to do a more in-depth analysis outside the 'perfect' lap and have some time to analyze each lap time at all the sensors line by line, we would need to download the data, convert it to Excel and then scroll through thousands of lines of data to spot trends and anomalies. It sounds daunting but it can be done in under a half hour if you know what to look for, and what question you are trying to answer. For example, during my internship with X22 Racing a year ago, there was an oil pressure issue during a session and a question was casually asked as to where/when this happened. I was able to go through the data line by line and found the exact place on the track where the oil pressure started falling and from there, see how long the issue occurred which then helped the team make a decision for the next session.
Look for Part 3 in the September issue.

Interesting People Make Motorsports Fascinating

Larry Mason conducted multiple interviews at the 2024 Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach for the Fast Lane Racing School podcast. Interviewees include this year's Indy 500 champion—Josef Newgarden, and many other drivers and industry people. Look at photos and listen to his interviews on raceschool.com. Just click on the "Blog & Press" tab to listen to past podcasts and see some of Mason's photography. Podcasts are posted weekly and are also available on Apple and Spotify. If there's someone you want interviewed, please contact Mason and let him know!

Brad Bernstein photo

Mason interviews JC Agajanian Jr.

The Heart of Racing

The 2023 season saw *Team LMR* victorious in our return to racing in October. It's those days that we cherish and appreciate as they don't come easily or automatically. The people who make it happen and support us are very special and incredibly appreciated. It is unfortunate that after over 20 years of support, one of our long-term sponsors, Performance Plus, has closed. I want to thank Dave Fox for all that he's done for me and my family over the years.

It is with heartfelt sadness to announce that we lost valued crew member, Brandon Valdez, who helped us win at Auto Club Speedway. His skill, bright smile and friendly demeanor will certainly be missed. This newsletter is dedicated in his memory. Godspeed, Brandon.

Brandon shown here second from left at ACS. SRM Photography

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"Unless you're leading, the scenery never changes." Larry Mason

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Team LMR is actively seeking marketing partners to join us as we race in the 2024 season. You can be a tire sponsor for just $1,500 or an entrant for $750. Makes a great gift! Don't delay, contact us today!

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