

For Immediate Release
October, 2002

Information Contact: Laura Baker
781-228-2108

**R.J. VALENTINE ENTERS 3-HOUR GRAND-AM RACE AT DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY
SET FOR NOVEMBER 10**

BRAINTREE, MASS. R.J. Valentine has been a Professional Road Racer for many years. The Hingham, Mass. resident presides over vast insurance and real estate holdings and other associated businesses from his corner office at his flagship building on Wood Road. R.J., though, gets a lot of personal satisfaction by starting new business ventures and continues on with his motorsports. And at times, is able to blend both of them together. Valentine is entered in the Grand-Am finale at the Daytona International Speedway in Florida on November 10. He'll co-drive a Reilly/Scott MK III world sports car and is paired up with Tom Volk of Akron, Ohio. He's partnered with Volk previously at the Daytona 24-Hour twice before. The race car weighs 1,900 lbs. and is powered by an engine that produces 750 HP. "This car is a rocket," said R.J.

Spending his early childhood in the Dorchester section of Boston, he focused on business ventures and got his recreation by competing in SCCA road racing events both here in New England and throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe. "After all of these years, Daytona is still my favorite track, though. I've raced in the 24-Hour endurance event there 17 times," revealed Valentine. Over the years he's enjoyed success there. Valentine took a third place in the Paul Revere 250 in he early 80's. Most recently, this past February, he and his co-drivers placed 19th in a Porsche GTR 3. Some 72 cars in various classes started that 2002 Daytona 24 Hour grind.

"Daytona has a special appeal to me. I've driven all types of cars there and frankly I can't remember them all. The only other track that has those high speeds is Watkins Glen(NY)and Road America in Wisconsin. In those 24 and 12-Hour races you have to manage your tires and save the car to finish at the end. It means that you have to understand what you are up against. Like Daytona has a lot of concrete surface in the infield road course. The clam shell mix they used is rough on tires. You have to take care of the tires, because if they give out, you risk hitting the wall on the banked section. And that will really ruin your day. In a 3-Hour race, though, the strategy is much different. You have to run real hard to be up front. You have to "wrestle" the car and keep pushing it hard," said R.J. on the nuts-and-bolts of the racing strategy.

Valentine also does a lot of preparation for these races. He has a strict regimen of physical workouts and aerobics. R.J. also practices a lot at his pet project F1 Boston indoor go-kart track just up the street from his office on Wood Road. He has a specially designed high speed 13 HP kart to keep his skills up. "My reflexes seem to be in place. I can still catch a fly with an open hand and close it when I make contact," he said.

Valentine is also the CEO of that unique racing venue. He also spent three weeks driving a more powerful shifter kart at the recently opened F1 Outdoors, a fast three-quarter mile road course, on Rt. 18 in E.

Bridgewater, Mass. "Age isn't a big factor in this sport provided you stay in shape. At Daytona in February, my lap times were just 2 tenths off an Indy Car driver who drove it the previous year."

How long can Valentine keep this racing and mixing it with his business interests is hard to say. "Racing is like a drug and I've been consuming it for 25 years. You keep coming back and you race anything with wheels.....because it's there to be done. Now, I've just became interested in helicopters because I like new and interesting and out of the ordinary things," revealed R.J. He also points to others like himself. "Take Bob Bahre for instance. He was in his 60's when he started to build New Hampshire International Speedway. It sounded insane to a lot of people on why Bahre would do that. But, give me a man with a mission and I'll show you a winner. Take the idea and stay on course. Crazy, maybe? But, I'm not bored. And I hope to go out with a smile. I have no regrets and I've enjoyed life."

He sounds like a guy who enjoys life to the fullest.