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Valentine to Race Twice Around the Clock at Daytona

New England will be watching as local road race veteran, "R.J." Valentine will be making his 17th "Grand-Am" appearance at the prestigious Rolex 24-hour race. With 16 Daytona 24 hr events behind him, he's well prepared for every twist and turn and fueled to stay at the head of the competition. Steve Ivankovich, owner of both entries, stated "We chose R. J. to head the 35 car because of ability to run quick laps and do double stints. R. J.'s work-out regimen is rigorous throughout the year and we are confident he can bring the car home without incident. We are fortunate to have gotten him on board with us".

Valentine To Race Twice Around the Clock At Daytona –

Page 2

Honoring its 40th year, the long-standing Grand-Am Rolex 24-hr. Daytona event will kick-off the 2002 racing season at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 2 and end at 1:00 pm on Sunday, February 3. Previous winners read as a “who’s who” in racing history: Mario Andretti, A.J. Foyt, Al Unser, Graham Hill, Dan Gurney and even Stock Car legends such as Dale Earnhardt have been winners on this grueling course.

The “World Center of Racing,” Daytona’s 480-acre motorsports complex hosts this most diverse gathering of sports cars to test their drivers’ willpower and endurance on the 3.56 mile course. The course incorporates most of the NASCAR 31 degree □high banked Superspeedway before the racers peel off into the inside of the trioval and negotiate the

twisty swoops and hairpin turns of the infield course. The course is ideal for powerful cars to handle the long straights, yet they must be nimble enough to handle the demands of the tight infield section.

Valentine To Race Twice Around the Clock At Daytona—Page 3

Five separate classes vie for titles in this famed enduro—two distinct Grand Am LeMans prototypes and three classes distinguished by engine size and performance. These track-savvy makes include Porsches, Ferraris, BMWs, Corvettes, and Sports Racing Prototypes.

RJ's Background

Valentine, a Hingham resident and a graduate of Suffolk University, longed to travel beyond the speed and racing limits

to chase the fast-paced engines of the race car world. In 1974, he donned his first driver's suit and took a spin behind the wheel of a Corvette at a local Club speed event. For Valentine, it was love at first drive. Valentine rapidly accelerated through the ranks from amateur to professional in 3 short years.

Since then, Valentine has 256 professional road race starts and ranks with the third highest start record in Trans Am Series Events with 128.

Valentine is president and CEO of The MBA Group and the wildly popular F1 Boston located in Braintree, MA.

Valentine to Race Twice Around the Clock at Daytona – Page

4

This year, he's teaming up with Gerry Green, Somerset, NJ, and the Skip Barber School's chief instructor and Harvard, MA native, Rick Diorio. They will compete in Spencer Pumpelly's Porsche GT3-R, a factory built race car that

resembles the street Porsche 911, but is a fully modified race car built in Germany.

The engine is a 3.6 litre water-cooled flat 6 which produces 450 horsepower utilizing the 43.9mm intake restrictor. The redline is 8600 rpm. The car weighs 2450 without the driver or fuel and top speeds at Daytona will approach 180 mph. The car has six-speed transmission, 12" wide racing tires, a complete data acquisition package, and 14" brakes to help it stop.

Valentine exudes enthusiasm for the car – and team’s – potential. “This team and car is geared to win! With two years of successful results already in-hand in the Grand Am series, we definitely are an odds-on favorite for a win!”

You can cheer on Valentine and his talented team while watching The Grand-Am Rolex 24-hr. on the edge of your seat- LIVE! -on *Speedvision*.

Valentine to Race Twice Around the Clock at Daytona – Page

OPTIONAL DAYTONA FACTS:

Superspeedway

2.5-mile trioval

40 feet wide with 12- to 30-foot apron

Turns

Banking: 31 degrees

Length: 3,000 feet

Radius: 1,000 feet

Trioval

Banking: 18 degrees (at start/finish line)

Frontstretch

Chute length: 1,900 feet (from turn to middle of trioval)

Total length: 3,800 feet

Banking: Minimal for drainage only

Valentine to Race Twice Around the Clock at Daytona – Page

6

Backstretch

Length: 3,000 feet

Banking: Minimal for drainage only

Pit Road

Length: 1,600 feet

Width: 50 feet

Garage Area

7 garages with 82 stalls (spaces for 164 cars)

Road Course

3.56 miles (incorporates trioval superspeedway and non-banked infield section)

Infield course and chicane range from 30 to 50 feet wide

Speedway Facility

Total acreage: 480 acres

Infield: 180 acres (includes 44-acre Lake Lloyd)

Valentine to Race Twice Around the Clock at Daytona – Page

7

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