

Mattioli Prepares for Hometown Run in Pocono



LONG POND PA (6-4-08) - As the grandson of Pocono Raceway patriarchs' Dr. Joe and Rose Mattioli, Chase Mattioli may one day own the track.

Following Speedway Motorsports, Inc.'s (SMI) recent purchase of Kentucky Speedway, there was speculation that Pocono may also be sold to SMI; that was until Rose Mattioli spoke to the Associated Press Tuesday. Mattioli said, "It (Pocono) was never available; it will never be available," who owns the track with her husband Joseph. "My husband has stated that over and over again. That's it."

Mattioli also told the AP that there will be racing on the mountaintop for at least "as long as our grandkids live." It just so turns out that one of those grandkids - 18-year-old Chase will drive on it first. Mattioli has filed an entry for the Saturday afternoon, June 7th Pocono 200.

"It will be really awesome if I can do well at Pocono," said Chase. "I'll have a ton of family and friends there, and it will be great to have that kind of support."

Regardless of his potential ownership role, the Long Pond, Pennsylvania driver has always had dreams of being a successful racecar driver.

"I was seven years old when I started racing at the Lehigh Valley quarter midget track," said Mattioli. "The first time I got behind the wheel, I was petrified. I only got to make one turn before I crashed head on into the wall. Funny thing is, it was at that moment I knew I wanted to be a racecar driver."

And like most up and coming drivers, regardless of last names, he's working his way through the ranks. From quarter midgets to Legends Cars to dirt modifieds to SCCA road course racing to the ARCA RE/MAX Series, Mattioli is putting in his time in the driver's seat. ARCA RE/MAX Series-wise, he's off to a commendable start with a solid 12th place finish at Salem in his series debut back in mid-April. Mattioli also finished 20th at Toledo Speedway on May 18th.

"This year is basically all about learning. We want to win, but we certainly don't expect it. It's about starting and finishing races. We managed to dodge all the wrecks at Salem. We'll see what happens at Pocono. I've got a great crew behind me."

Beyond Pocono, Mattioli's ARCA RE/MAX Series plans include a second attempt at Pocono In August as well as the road course event at the New Jersey Motorsports Park on September 28th. In addition, selected NASCAR Camping World East Series races are included on Mattioli's 2008 racing calendar.

Outside of a solid start in racing, he's an Honor student and maintains a 3.9 GPA and is preparing to graduate from Scranton Preparatory High School this spring with plans to attend Fordham University this fall.

"Being the first one in the Mattioli family to pursue a racing career, I feel like I have a great responsibility to live up to."

That responsibility continues this weekend when the Pocono 200 rolls off on the Pocono triangle Saturday afternoon.

A full weekend of on-track activity is planned for the June event, with ARCA RE/MAX Series haulers scheduled to converge at the speedway on Thursday, June 5th from 4-6 p.m. A practice session is scheduled for Friday, June 6th beginning at 10:15 a.m., with SIM Factory Pole Award Qualifying slated for 1:45 p.m. The Pocono 200 kicks off Saturday afternoon, June 7th at 1 p.m. and will be televised same-day on SPEED at 10 p.m. Eastern. The race will be re-aired on SPEED on Sunday at 3 a.m.

Tickets for the ARCA RE/MAX Series Pocono 200, the SPRINT Cup Series event and the entire 2008 Pocono Raceway season are available by contacting the Pocono Raceway Ticket Office at 1-800-RACEWAY (1-800-722-3929).

ARCA PR/Media
Office (734) 847-6726
Don Radebaugh (419) 450-0611 (cell)
Jackie L. Franzil (419) 574-2685 (cell)