



Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Crowns Their 2015 Engine Challenge National Champion

Students are inspired and challenged at PRI Show in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (December --, 2015): While the Performance Racing Industry (PRI) Trade Show did not officially start until Thursday, December 10, students from across the nation convened in Indianapolis on Tuesday to kick off the Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Engine Challenge Dual Championship. With the first four spots in the Engine Challenge Finals filled from SEMA competition, 17 additional teams came to compete for the final four spots at PRI. From Tuesday through Friday they competed in performance engine rebuilds, looking for sub 20 minute completion times.



In the PRI Dual Championship, teams completed a total of four rebuilds. The top three were then averaged to determine overall winners. Team Weld Racing from Eastern Oklahoma County Tech Center, Team Hypertech from Forsyth Central High School, Team Mahle from Burton Center for Arts and Technology and Team Moroso from Elkhart Area Career Center topped the leaderboard in the second half of the Dual Championship to fulfill the final Elite Eight spots.

On Friday the Elite Eight Showdown began. Three rebuilds would determine who would be the 2015 Engine Challenge National Champion. Teams would not be allowed to throw out their worst run of the Showdown, as they had in the Dual Championship rounds. The first two rebuilds were completed on Friday before one final run on Saturday. Once the dust settled, it was Team Weld Racing rising to the top with their instructor, Jim LaFavers. The averaged time of their three performance engine rebuilds was just 18 minutes and 19 seconds. LaFavers and his team are consistent top finishers. They were one torque wrench penalty away from winning last year and did capture the title in 2013. Team Weld Racing had what it took this year to become the 2015 Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Engine Challenge National Champions.

Team Hypertech's average time of 19:32 was enough to secure second place in the National Championship. This team is one of three for coach Marlo Miranda. Another of his teams, Team Howard Cams, finished ninth in the nation, just missing the Elite Eight Showdown. The dedication it takes to field one team in the Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Engine Challenge is astounding, much less three. That two of them broke the national top ten is a testament to the hard work of Miranda and his Forsyth Central students.

Chris Overfelt took his team all the way to National Championship honors last season and returned this year to





finish a very respectable third. Coming in just behind Team Hypertech, Team Mahle had an average time of 19:44.

The top four was rounded out by National Record holders Team ARP and their coach John Rickerson. Team ARP captured the National Record during one of their runs in the SEMA Show Dual Championship. In between SEMA and PRI, one of the five members of their team became ill and so they were forced to make a substitution. Despite this last minute adjustment, Team ARP still averaged a time of 20:23.

Finishing out the top eight in the nation were Team B&M Racing from Franklin County Career & Technology Center, Team K&N Filters from Loara High School, Team Moroso from Elkhart Area Career Center, and Team Taylor Cable from Belvidere North High School, in fifth through eighth respectively.

Hot Rodders of Tomorrow congratulates all of their 2015 teams and top finishers. "We are always blown away by the dedication and performance of these students," stated Rodney Bingham, head of the program. "Year after year they continue pushing the envelope, upping the level of competition and then going on after the program to do incredible things within the automotive industry. This was the reason we started the Engine Challenge, but we never really envisioned that it would rise to this level. Congratulations to Team Weld Racing and all of the Hot Rodders of Tomorrow competitors."

The days spent at the SEMA and PRI Shows offer far more to these students than just competition. Students attend seminars by industry leaders, meet and greet with companies in attendance at the shows, and, new this year, tested their skills through interviews and a written exam.

Ryan Gortney of Racing for the Record led the students through a life motivation seminar. Teams also heard from Indycar's Don Lambert and drag racing's Mike Lewis. Arguably the most impactful seminar was held by Jay Blake from FollowADream.org. When a forklift tire blew up in Blake's face, he endured 10 hours of surgery just to save his life, but lost his eyesight in the process. Through a fated series of events, Blake found himself relearning his way around a car. He soon formed a Top Alcohol drag race team where he now serves as Car Chief to the team, while his brother drives the dragster on the NHRA tour.

One of the most important aspects of the Hot Rodders of Tomorrow is the scholarships offered by several of the top automotive colleges in the nation. It is only through these scholarships that many of the students have the potential to continue pursuing their dreams after high school. During the PRI Show these colleges took time to speak to the students, encouraging them and educating them on life after high school and the possibilities that await within the automotive industry. A new partner this year, the Universal Technical Institute held a luncheon for teams and staff on Friday before the Elite Eight Showdown kick off.

"This program would not be a success without our college partners (UNOH, OTC, SAM, and UTI)," thanked Bingham. "We appreciate UTI coming on board this year and holding the luncheon for our students, as well as all our other wonderful college partners. They will be receiving the best of the best into their programs thanks to their generous scholarships."



Over 4.55 Million dollars in scholarships opportunities have been awarded this year to Hot Rodders of Tomorrow teams. While Team Weld Racing enjoys their much hard earned position as National Champions the journey for hundreds of other high school students begins again with the 2016 season, just a few short months away. Find out more at www.hotroddersoftomorrow.org.

	School	State	Team	Instructor	Time Average
1st	Eastern Oklahoma County Tech Center	OK	Weld Racing	Jim LaFevers	18:19.7
2nd	Forsyth Central High School	GA	Hypertech	Marlo Miranda	19:32.7
3rd	Burton Center for Arts & Technology	VA	Mahle	Chris Overfelt	19:44.7
4th	Peach County High School	GA	ARP	Johnny Rickerson	20:23.3
5th	Franklin County Career & Technology Center	PA	B&M Racing	Bobby Bard	21:50.3
6th	Loara High School Team #2	CA	K&N Filters	Anthony Boccignone	22:09.7
7th	Elkhart Area Career Center	IN	Moroso	Ryan Gortney	23:47.0
8th	Belvidere North High School	IL	Taylor Cable	Jill Arata	24:28.0
9th	Forsyth Central	GA	Howards Cams	Marlo Miranda	21:23.0
10th	Rancho Alamitos High School Team 1	CA	Aeroquip	David Le	24:17.4
11th	Lakeshore High School	MI	Holley	Douglas Haygood	24:30.4
12th	Elkhart Area Career Center	IN	Flex-A-Lite	Ryan Gortney	25:16.7
13th	Belvidere North High School	IL	Fel-Pro	Robert Arata	25:19.0
14th	Lockport High School	IL	Hedman Hedders	Mark de la Vega	25:39.0
15th	Peach County High School	GA	Derale	James Lassetter	26:04.7
16th	Forsyth Central	GA	Energy Suspension	Clayton Bradley	26:20.0
17th	South Elgin High School	IL	Be Cool	Steve Schertz	26:28.0
18th	C D Hylton High School	VA	Comp Cams	Eddie Stevens	27:25.4
19th	East Ridge	TN	Centerforce	Rainey Horne	27:47.7
20th	Tulsa Technology Center Team #2	OK	DEI	Gil Blumenthal	28:06.4
21st	Sequoyah High	TN	Motive Gear	Mel Newby	28:11.3
22nd	Joliet Central High School Team #1	IL	Dee Zee	Sean Reisdorf	28:26.4
23rd	Belvidere North High School	IL	Edelbrock	Jill Arata	28:31.0
24th	Valley High School	CA	Autometer	Saul Garcia	29:02.4
25th	Sequoyah High	TN	Flowmaster	Chris Renfro	29:02.7
26th	Tulsa Technology Center Team #1	OK	Mr. Gasket	Greg Gilliam	29:16.4
27th	Burton Center for Arts and Technology Team #2	VA	Parts Pro	Steven Hoback	29:20.2
28th	Loara High School Team #1	CA	FAST	Anthony Boccignone	29:46.0
29th	Bolton High School Team	TN	Fragola	Paul Frye	30:30.4
30th	Rancho Alamitos High School Team 2	CA	Scorpion Racing	David Le	31:48.4
31st	Katella High School NOCROP Team 1	CA	Pertronix	Joe Rolf	31:57.4
32nd	Lockport High School	IL	Nitrous Express	Mark de la Vega	32:57.0
33rd	Fremd High School	IL	Thermo-Tec	Steve Elza	35:08.7
34th	Calabasas High School	CA	Aeromotive	Josh Landerer	35:51.2
35th	Wilcox High School	CA	MSD	Jozef Antolin	36:37.2
36th	Tulsa Technology Center Team #3	OK	Vibrant Performance	Steven Cummings	36:40.2
37th	Jacksonville High School	AR	Allstar Performance	Wayne Griffin	38:11.0
38th	Effingham County High School	GA	PRW	Brad Jones	38:55.4
39th	Joliet Central	IL	Royal Purple	Sean Reisdorf	41:18.3



About Hot Rodders of Tomorrow

From humble beginnings in 2008 with just five teams competing against each other, [Hot Rodders of Tomorrow](#) and its Engine Challenge program has exploded into a national phenomenon dedicated to inspiring the next generation of hot rod enthusiasts. In 2015 a total of 153 teams, 504 high school students, competed in 12 qualifying events across the United States. Each year Hot Rodders of Tomorrow and their growing partners award millions of dollars in scholarships to secondary education in the automotive industry. Hot Rodders of Tomorrow is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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