



HISTORY

Action Express Racing will look to continue a record of success that stretches back to the origins of the team as it takes on the 2024 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship.

The No. 31 Whelen Cadillac Racing V-Series.R will be shared by 2023 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar champion Pipo Derani (BRA) and rising superstar Jack Aitken (UK) for the full season. Tom Blomqvist (UK) will serve as the Endurance Ace and will join Pipo and Jack for Daytona, Sebring, Watkins Glen, Indianapolis and Road Atlanta. The team will also compete in the 24 Hours of Le Mans for the second consecutive year racing as No. 311.

The team has an unrivaled record in IMSA competition, claiming the 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021 and 2023 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Team and Driver championships, as well as securing the 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2023 North American Endurance Championships titles.

Action Express Racing worked to find the top of the podium under the guidance of Gary Nelson, well known for his time spent in NASCAR as a championship winning crew chief and later the director of the NASCAR Monster Energy Series (then Winston Cup). Nelson also managed the development of the NASCAR Research and Development Center in Concord, NC.

Having launched with a winning run in the 2010 Rolex 24 At Daytona with a leased Riley chassis, the organization then grew to develop and manufacture the Coyote Chassis for the Daytona Prototype regulations. Carrying the Chevrolet bowtie, the chassis became a winner in its debut 2012 season. Action Express Racing continued to develop as a team, with highlight moments including a dramatic 1-2 team finish at the Detroit Grand Prix in 2012.

As the sports car racing world merged into the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, Action Express Racing arrived in the new landscape extraordinarily well prepared.

The team won the 2014 Rolex 24 At Daytona with João Barbosa, Christian Fittipaldi, and Sebastien Bourdais. Victories at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Road America set the stage for a run to the 2014 IMSA Driver and Team championships as well as the first-ever Tequila Patrón North American Endurance Cup as the No. 5 entry completed every mile of competition.

The 2015 IMSA WeatherTech Championship saw the team return to a full-time two-car program in the top Prototype class as Mustang Sampling joined the organization as the title sponsor for the No. 5 Chevrolet Corvette DP with drivers Barbosa and Fittipaldi, while the No. 31 entry proudly carried the iconic colors of Whelen Engineering/Team Fox Corvette DP for teammates Eric Curran and Dane Cameron.

The team delivered two equal cars capable of competing for the title. Barbosa, Fittipaldi and Bourdais claimed victory in the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring, snapping a 50-year drought for Chevrolet in the oldest endurance race in North America. Cameron and Curran broke through for victory in Detroit, and struck again with a win at Road America. The team scored encore IMSA Driver, Team, and Tequila Patrón North American Endurance Cup titles for the No. 5 entry as the No. 31 Whelen Engineering machine came home third in the IMSA championship.

2016 saw the No. 31 Whelen Engineering entry come to the fore, as the Curran/Cameron combination claimed the 2016 IMSA WeatherTech Driver and Team Championships, while the No. 5 Mustang Sampling campaign delivered another North American Endurance title.

2017 marked the debut of the all-new Cadillac DPi-V.R, and Barbosa introduced the machine with authority, claiming pole position at Daytona on the way to a hard-fought second place finish with his co-drivers Fittipaldi and Felipe Albuquerque. Both the Mustang Sampling and Whelen Engineering entries again demonstrated themselves as winners in 2017, with the No. 5 Mustang Sampling Cadillac closing out the year with an incredible fourth consecutive Tequila Patrón North American Endurance Cup title.

While expectations may have changed within the industry for Action Express Racing, Gary Nelson and his team entered the 2018 season with the same motto that they surprised everyone with in 2010.

On a large white sign in the back of the Action Express Racing shop visitors can find the words "Expect to Win" etched in black. The three-word phrase has been Nelson's motto since becoming team manager of the team in 2010. While the outsider might misinterpret the attitude as arrogant, the veteran racer is quick to explain what that mindset really means.

"Expecting to win doesn't mean we're going to win every time we go to the track," said Nelson. "If you were going to win every time, they wouldn't call this racing. 'Expect to win' simply means that if everyone does his or her job to the best of their ability, we make the right calls on strategy and avoid any misfortune outside of our control; we shouldn't be surprised that we ended up in victory lane."

And that preparation once again bore fruit to start the 2018 season, as the team claimed a 1-2 finish in a record-breaking run to another Rolex 24 Victory. Victories at Long Beach (No. 5 Mustang Sampling Racing) and Detroit Grand Prix (No. 31 Whelen Engineering Racing) added yet more trophies for the shop. The legacy of IMSA Championship performance was once again extended as the team secured the 2018 Team and Driver Championship with the No. 31 Whelen Engineering Racing Cadillac DPi of Eric Curran and Felipe Nasr.

The 2019 IMSA season generated more trophies--Victories at Sebring 12 Hour and Road Atlanta for the No. 31 Whelen Engineering entry, as well as another street-fight win for the No. 5 Mustang Sampling Cadillac at Long Beach. The team continued its unparalleled success in the Michelin Endurance Cup, claiming the 2019 title to extend its amazing run of success in the races that demand the most of both team and driver.

For 2020 the team would have to deal with the very tough competition but also race during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. This meant a unique and very fluid schedule with multiple visits to some locations to ensure that we were able to complete the season. The No.31 Whelen Engineering Cadillac DPi earned 1 win at Sebring and podium finishes at Road America, Road Atlanta, Mid-Ohio and Laguna Seca.

Action Express Racing returned to Championship form in 2021 behind masterful driving from full season drivers Pipo Derani and Felipe Nasr with support from Mike Conway at the Endurance events. The No.31 Whelen Engineering Cadillac earned wins at Watkins Glen, Road America and Long Beach with podium finishes at Mid-Ohio, Detroit, Laguna Seca and Road Atlanta.

2022 would be the final season of the Cadillac DPi-VR. While the No.31 Whelen Engineering Cadillac didn't find their way to the top step they did earn podium finishes at Laguna Seca, Mid Ohio, CTMP (Canada) and at Road Atlanta.

Action Express Racing and the No.31 Whelen Engineering team joined the Factory Cadillac program from 2023 and will compete in the all new Cadillac VR-LMDH platform. The GTP class bought with it a lot of changes but was a spectacular success. The team carried on their "Expect To Win" motto and were rewarded with a win at the Twelve Hours of Sebring, the Michelin Endurance Cup and the inaugural GTP Team and Driver Championships. The team also finished the centenary 24 Hours of Le Mans, their debut in the French classic.

2024 sees Action Express Racing looking to defend both the Michelin Endurance Cup and IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship in their second season with the Cadillac V-Series.R with an amazingly strong and successful driver line-up. A return to the 24 Hours of Le Mans in June 2024 will see the team look to build on Cadillac's podium in 2023.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHAMPIONSHIPS

2023 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship

2023 Michelin Endurance Cup

2021 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship

2019 Michelin Endurance Cup

2018 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship

2018 Michelin Endurance Cup

2017 Michelin Endurance Cup

2016 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship

2016 Michelin Endurance Cup

2015 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship

2015 Michelin Endurance Cup

2014 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship

2014 Michelin Endurance Cup

WINS

2023 Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring

2021 Long Beach Grand Prix

2021 Road America

2021 Watkins Glen Sprint Race

2020 Sebring Sprint Race

2019 Petit Le Mans

2019 Long Beach Grand Prix

2019 Sebring 12 Hour

2018 Rolex 24 At Daytona (1-2 Team finish)

2018 Detroit Grand Prix

2018 Long Beach Grand Prix

WINS (CONTINUED)

2017 Canadian Tire Motorsports Park

2017 Sahlen's Six Hours of the Glen

2016 Sahlen's Six Hours of the Glen

2016 Canadian Tire Motorsports Park

2016 Continental Tire Road Race Showcase

2015 Petit Le Mans

2015 Continental Tire Road Race Showcase (1-2 sweep)

2015 Chevrolet Sports Car Classic

2015 Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring

2014 Continental Tire Road Race Showcase

2014 Brickyard Grand Prix

2014 Rolex 24 at Daytona

2013 Sahlen's Six Hours of the Glen

2013 Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course

2012 Sahlen's Six Hours of the Glen

2012 Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix (1-2 sweep)

2011 Virginia International Raceway

2010 Rolex 24 at Daytona