



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 18, 2007**

ESTERLINE ADDS NEW SPONSOR IN ALWTS *MISSES TOLEDO TO WORK FOR INDY 500 TEAM; GUINN TO DRIVE*

INDIANAPOLIS, IN- In racing, drivers are always trying to advance their careers, hoping to better their teams, just waiting for that one important phone call that changes everything. Veteran open wheel and stock car racer Tully Esterline was doubly blessed this week.

Even with a disappointing 10th place finish at Kentucky Speedway Saturday, "I have a lot to smile about," Esterline said.

The first call came from his alma mater, the University of Toledo (Ohio). Can UT procure primary sponsorship of Esterline's No. 10 ALWTS Chevrolet S-10 for the remainder of the 2007 season?

"I was so excited to receive that call," said Esterline, a 2001 cum laude graduate from UT's esteemed College of Engineering. "I have kept close ties there in the years after graduation, and their people have always been good to me. Unlike high school, the college understood that working in motorsports was a very viable dream for me. And they could help me get there.

"I can't stress the importance of getting a degree- it's directly related to a career in motorsports. I wouldn't have gotten half as far as I have without the engineering degree to compliment my racing background. I am thrilled to have them on board."

"UT's College of Engineering has a fine Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering," said Christine M. Smallman, director of college relations and facilities management for UT. "The automotive program coupled with the formula SAE motorsports initiatives allow students to experience what a career in motorsports would expose them to.

"Tully is the alumnus we like to highlight to the engineering community and future engineering students. Well-rounded, enjoys the field of engineering and truly a professional in his field. Our dean constantly tells our graduates to strive for that which is beyond the cubicle. To reach for the many exciting pathways the career of engineering can take you. Tully is clearly an example of one of our alums who have achieved that dream."

Esterline's degree from UT, along with more than a decade of competitive racing, propelled him into his very first motorsports job- as director of engineering for Brewco Motorsports, Inc., a winning NASCAR Busch Series two-car race team based in Kentucky. After four years of long hours and cross-country and international travel, Esterline left that job in December to take a position as an engineer/designer for C&R Racing in Indianapolis. His current duties include drawings and design work in Pro E and cooling system research.

"Working at C&R, the bonus for me is that now I get to spend more time with my wife and son Tobey," Esterline said. "I actually get to be home at night and on the weekends."

Then last weekend, as Esterline drove out of his church parking lot, his phone rang again. This time, it was C&R owner Chris Paulsen. Would Esterline like to be a mechanic with a race team competing in the 2007 Indy 500?

“I said ‘yes,’ of course,” Esterline said. “It’s just something I never thought I’d get to be a part of. I’m learning a ton. This is the first time I’ve even had my head underneath one of these cars. It’s so amazingly different from a stock car. I’m really looking forward to being a part of it all. It’s pretty exciting.”

During the weeks leading up to the race, Esterline is working for Team Leader Racing with driver PJ Jones. Jones is piloting the bright orange No. 40, the same color and number as the STP turbine car his father Parnelli drove in the 1967 Indianapolis 500.

“Our team owner Kent Baker wanted to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of Parnelli’s run at Indy,” Esterline said. “What better driver to do that with than his own son.”

Now the only problem Esterline has is scheduling. While Saturday, May 19, is the third day of qualifying at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, it’s also the day of the ALWTS race at Toledo. So Esterline hopped on the phone again and made his own call- to past ALWTS champ Chad Guinn.

“I know Chad will get the job done,” Esterline said. “He’s won here at Toledo before, and we’ve been friends forever. On top of that, my crew really likes him- it was a no-brainer for me. I just don’t want to fall completely out of the owner’s points. We definitely have a chance to be in the top-five at season’s end.”

Esterline will be back in his own truck seat again when the ALWTS visits Kil-Kare Speedway on Friday, June 15.

“Life is good and the future is bright,” he said. “We just want to thank God for looking out for us. And we thank UT, Rupp Seeds and all our sponsors for supporting us. As a family and as a team, we are very blessed.”

To find out more about beginning a motorsports career with UT’s College of Engineering, log on to eng.utoledo.edu.

Media Contact:
Wendy L. Esterline
Public Relations/photographer
Esterline Motorsports, Ltd.
4615 Eagles Watch Lane
Indianapolis, IN 56254
cell: 270-977-0331
