



Stewart To Lead Chili Bowl ‘Team of Champions’

Three-Time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion Tony Stewart, Chevrolet Set To Make Chili Bowl Return Alongside NASCAR Nationwide Series Titlist Stenhouse Jr., USAC National Champion Clauson, and Blackhurst

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 26, 2011) – Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) announced today that three-time and reigning NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion Tony Stewart will return to Tulsa, Okla., to compete in the 2012 Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Midget Nationals, which begin Jan. 10.

Stewart made his most recent appearance in the event in 2008, finishing eighth in the A-main finale. After taking a three-year hiatus from the biggest Midget race of the year, Stewart will return in January behind the wheel of the No. 14 Chevrolet/Chevrolet Performance Parts/Spike.

The 26th annual event inside the typically fan-packed confines of the QuikTrip Center’s Tulsa Expo Raceway will see Stewart join one of the most powerful teams ever assembled for one of racing’s most unique events. Joined by 2011 NASCAR Nationwide Series champion Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 2011 United States Auto Club (USAC) National Drivers champion Bryan Clauson, and 2011 POWri Rookie of the Year Jake Blackhurst, the formidable foursome is without a doubt the biggest threat to take home the Golden Driller trophy in 2012.

Stewart has two Golden Drillers in his collection after scoring Chili Bowl victories in 2002 and 2007. The newly crowned, three-time NASCAR titlist will lead the four-car “Team of Champions” into the 2012 Chili Bowl behind the wheel of a special edition black, carbon-fiber entry that has been dubbed the “Back in Black” car. He’ll look to give Chevrolet its second Chili Bowl triumph.

Clauson will pilot the No. 39c INDYCAR/Indy 500/Spike/Esslinger for co-entrants Corey Tucker Racing (CTR)/Bryan Clauson, Inc. (BCI)/Curb-Agajanian Racing. The four-time USAC champion has made two A-main starts in the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals. He scored his best finish in 2008, taking the checkered flag in fourth place. Clauson has also won a preliminary A-main in the Chili Bowl in the Tuesday-night 25-lap qualifier last January.

The 22-year-old open-wheel standout has a long list of credentials that includes 23 USAC National Midget Series victories, two USAC National Midget Series championship titles, two USAC Indiana Midget Week titles and two Belleville Midget Nationals triumphs. In addition to being a two-time USAC National Drivers champion, Clauson has also been named National Midget Driver of the Year three times in his young career. IZOD IndyCar Series CEO Randy Bernard recently announced that Clauson will compete in the 2012 Indianapolis 500 as part of his award for winning his second consecutive USAC National Drivers championship.

Recently crowned NASCAR Nationwide Series champion Stenhouse Jr., will compete for the Team of Champions for CTR/BCI/Curb-Agajanian Racing in the No. 39i Curb Records/Spike/Esslinger. Fresh off his championship run, Stenhouse Jr., will look to earn his first Golden Driller trophy. While his full-time efforts in the USAC National Midget Car Series ranks were short term, Stenhouse earned five victories and was named the series’ 2007 Rookie of the Year. He enters this year’s event with one A-main start to his credit and will look to put the Curb Records entry in the show again in 2012.

Blackhurst, the 2011 POWri Rookie of the Year, will drive the No. 39b Kitchen Cooked/Spike/Esslinger entry for the CTR/BCI team. Blackhurst looks to make his first Chili Bowl start and will be vying for event Rookie of the Year honors, as well as a shot at the Golden Driller. The 16-year-old is no stranger to racing success as he won the 2010 USAC Ford Focus Midget Midwest Pavement Championship.

For more information regarding the 2012 Lucas Oil Chili Bowl Midget Nationals, visit www.chilibowl.com.

Information regarding Stewart or TSR can be found at www.tonystewart.com or www.tonystewartracing.com.

For more information regarding Clauson, CTR or BCI, visit www.bryanclauson.com.

For more information regarding Stenhouse Jr., visit www.stenhousejr.com.

And for information regarding Blackhurst, visit www.jakeblackhurst.com.

Tony Stewart, Owner and Driver of the No. 14 Chevrolet/Chevrolet Performance Parts/Spike for Tony Stewart Racing

You're making your return to the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals by leading a very powerful lineup of championship-winning drivers. Are you looking forward to the challenge of making Saturday night's A-main finale?

"Having taken a few years off from competing in the Chili Bowl, I'm really looking forward to returning to Tulsa and the event in 2012. It's one of the biggest Midget races of the year and it's just a lot of fun to compete in the Chili Bowl. I'm also glad that we'll be able to give our partners, Chevrolet and Chevrolet Performance Parts, another shot at a Golden Driller. I think it's very feasible that we could get four cars in the A-Main on Saturday night. Bryan Clauson and Ricky Stenhouse, Jr. – they're guys who are going to be a threat in every A-Main they start. It's going to be a lot of fun to be part of this deal and I think we're going to have a good chance of putting a car in the winner's circle."

Bryan Clauson, Co-Owner and Driver of the No. 39c/INDYCAR/Indy 500/Spike/Esslinger for CTR/BCI/Curb-Agajanian Racing

As a key part of a team that is sure to be a major player in the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals, what part of the event are you looking forward to the most?

"Over the last few years I've been fortunate enough to add a lot of marquee wins to my resume, but there's still one hole I'd like to fill, and that's the Chili Bowl. We came so close last year before settling for a fifth-place finish. I'm definitely looking forward to returning to Tulsa to chase the Golden Driller and bragging rights. I'm also really flattered to be representing the INDYCAR and the Indianapolis 500 in this year's race. It's a great honor to have those names on the side of my car and it will be a lot of fun trying to put a car representing the greatest race in the world in victory lane at the biggest short-track race of the year.

"It's really exciting to be part owner of a team that includes some of the best in the business. Tony Stewart and Ricky Stenhouse Jr., are definitely guys you want to have as teammates and it's exciting to see a younger guy like Jack Blackhurst make his first start. Ricky has been a long-time friend of mine and I'm really excited to have him in one of our cars for this year's race. It's something we'd talked about for the past few years and, any time you can add the NASCAR Nationwide Series champion to your slate of drivers, it's a great thing."

About Chevrolet

Founded in Detroit in 1911, Chevrolet celebrates its centennial as a global automotive brand with annual sales of about 3.5 million vehicles in more than 130 countries. In the U.S., the Chevrolet portfolio includes: iconic performance cars such as Corvette and Camaro; dependable, long-lasting pickups and SUVs, such as Silverado and Suburban; and award-winning passenger cars and crossovers, such as Malibu, Equinox and Traverse. Chevrolet also offers "gas-friendly" solutions, such as Chevrolet Cruze Eco with an EPA-estimated 42 miles per gallon highway, and the Chevrolet Volt offering 35 miles of electric driving and an additional 344 miles of extended gasoline range, according to EPA estimates. Most new Chevrolet models offer OnStar safety, security and convenience technologies including OnStar Hands-Free Calling, Automatic Crash Response and Stolen Vehicle Slowdown. More information regarding Chevrolet models, fuel solutions and OnStar availability can be found at www.chevrolet.com.

About Curb Records

Curb Records is a record label started by Mike Curb, originally as Sidewalk Records in 1963. From 1969 to 1973, Curb merged with MGM Records where Curb served as president of MGM and Verve Records. After MGM Records was sold in 1973, Curb Records continued to operate as one of the most successful independent record labels in the United States. For more information, visit www.curb.com.

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For a preview of Stewart's 2012 Chili Bowl Midget Nationals entry, please see attached artwork.

For a preview of Clauson's 2012 Chili Bowl Midget Nationals entry, please see attached artwork.

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