



Official Team Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 3

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Racing
powered by **TOYOTA**

"Ironman" Stewart Wins the Baja 500



Remembering a Friend

Cal Wells III remembers Jeff Krosnoff, a talented driver and cherished friend

MCI Toyota Off-Road Team Wins at Baja

PPI's "Ironman" Stewart annihilated the competition by 28 minutes in Ensenada

On Location with the Teams

Take a glimpse at some of the stars of PPI and Arciero-Wells



Remembering a Friend

■ As I've done for the past 20 years, now that we've cleared the middle of our yearly campaign, I find this a good time to reflect on where we've been as a team, and where we are heading.

Certainly, the past six months have proved challenging. While we have had our tough races, we must not forget some recent highlights. Our best weekend so far this season certainly has to be the victory in this year's Baja 500, combined with an excellent Indy car weekend in Detroit. Now, with Toyota's extended commitment to off-road and the availability of the RV8B engine improving, I see only better days ahead.

While reflecting on our Indy car program, one can't help but think of what motivates us to continue. Of all professional sports, automobile racing is one of the toughest. The more personal commitment you put forth, the more you achieve. One of my closest friends and someone who will always remain dear to my heart taught me that I must always "Stay Hungry."

Although I knew Jeff Krosnoff for just a few years, I feel like I knew him for a entire lifetime. Jeff was a man who embraced life. Not only a phenomenal athlete, a talented racing technician and a man who maintained unparalleled focus, Jeff was also someone who had a tremendous passion for life. He showed that passion in his love for his wife, family, friends and his teammates. While I miss Jeff deeply and continue to feel the loss every day, he provides the single strongest force in my commitment to my craft.



And, though our program still has some tough days ahead, with much learning and growing still to come, I will always remember the mantra which Jeff Krosnoff instilled in myself and all of us at Precision Preparation. I love you Jeff, and you can count on the fact that I will always "STAY HUNGRY."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Cal Wells III".

Cal Wells III, President



MCI Toyota Off-Road Team Wins Baja 500



■ The MCI Toyota Off-Road Team has spent the last seven months focusing on what it takes to win the Baja 500. After nine hours and 48 minutes of navigating through some of Baja's toughest terrain—driver Ivan "Ironman" Stewart, Precision Preparation Inc. (PPI) and Toyota won the overall four-wheel and Trophy-Truck class victory at the SCORE Baja 500 on June 7, 1997.

On race day, the team had 27 check points and four pit locations on the 470-mile course, leaving Stewart to run about 20 miles between check points. Each team member was assigned to a check point and leap frogged from different points to ensure Ivan's truck could be serviced at any point on the course. Other than having a throttle spring that was too weak, the race was flawless.

In addition to eight chase-support vehicles and a transporter, the team took a total of 37 vehicles to Baja. There were approximately 85 personnel from PPI and Toyota. Two helicopters were on hand, one for the team's race support and the other for VIPs. A plane that hovered 5000ft above the desert course had a radio repeater in it to provide a wider radio coverage across the whole peninsula. Finally, a jet transported Cal Wells, team owner of the MCI Toyota Off-Road Team, and other high-ranking VIPs from Detroit to Baja so they could attend both races, the Detroit Grand Prix and the Baja 500.

PPI has three full-time employees dedicated to the off-road program. Peter Miles, lead mechanic, Dave James, special projects technician and Jim Blackmore, second mechanic. Additionally, the team draws from PPI's resources and employees which fluctuates depending on what their needs may be.

"The truck is capable right now of a 130mph," said Tom Morris, team manager of the MCI Toyota Off-Road Team. "Ivan's speed during the race averaged 60mph. The speed doesn't sound too fast, but take into consideration that he was running on a variety of different terrains from pavement with speeds of 130mph to very tight mountainous roads where he's crawling around rocks and through fallen trees at 5mph. Looking at it in that perspective, you can truly imagine what a challenge it is for Ivan driving the truck with a 60-mile average on the 470-

mile race. Think of it like this, driving from Los Angeles to Las Vegas and back on essentially outlined desert-dirt roads through the mountains in nine hours and 48 minutes. Actually, that would be hard enough to accomplish just on the freeways."

Wells and Morris have been working together since 1983 with PPI's desert and stadium programs. "Cal has dedicated his life to the successful growth of this company and to the motorsports programs, he deserves every success," added Morris.

"It would be hard to pinpoint one memorable event that stuck out since there's been so many championships over the years and fantastic relationships with the drivers," said Morris. "I couldn't take any one item or even one year because there's been so many good people through the years that it's been a better part of a lifetime and an excellent experience for me."

Wells, with his years of experience in the industry, served as the air support for Ivan. His primary function dealt with safety issues with cars, spectators and wildlife coming the wrong way on the course.

"Air support is utilized as a link for the entire team," said Wells. "It allows me to manage the race from the sky and act as a relay with Ivan."

"The race was a spectacular accomplishment for TRD (Toyota Racing Development), Toyota and PPI to develop and partnership a project of this nature in seven months and win on its first time out."

The initial conversations with TRD, which designed and built the new V8 engine, were regarding the overall configuration of the engine and how it would fit into the existing chassis.

"Building the V8 engine was something that TRD wanted to do for a long time. Ivan, had been pleading for more power for years," said Dave Wilson, VP of administration and production for TRD. "It's been frustrating for us because the package we developed, the V6 engine, was very reliable for the displacement and the technology, but obviously so was the competition. So we did a lot of lob-



bying to make the V8 engine come true. When Toyota moved ahead with the project, it made a lot of sense since the V8 engine we developed is a pre-production version of the upcoming T100 engine—ultimately, that's why we were able to design and build this.

"Overall, we were thrilled with the whole weekend. The Baja 500 and the Detroit Grand Prix, where all four Indy cars finished for the first time, was a huge motivator and morale booster for TRD at a time when we really needed one. The results for TRD from this

weekend showed us once again that we know how to win as a team and work together."

"At the finish line, Ivan publicly dedicated the win to TRD—it was a classy thing to do," said Wilson. "He's seen a lot of the frustration that we've encountered and his acknowledgment was much appreciated."

"On the Monday following the race, as we walked into the debrief meeting, the employees spontaneously started cheering—it was a great Monday morning!"

PPI became firmly planted in off-road racing when Toyota approached Wells to build and campaign a pair of short-course race trucks in 1982. Two years later, the partnership between PPI and Toyota expanded to include desert competition.

PPI and Toyota continued to evolve with a history of success in both stadium and desert races. Accomplishments include 11 manufacturer's championships in 12 years, an unparalleled resume of 81 off-road victories, and a list of champion drivers including seven-time, off-road champion Ivan "Ironman" Stewart, 1989 MTEG champion Robby Gordon, and Rod and Steve Millen with five combined championships.

On July 12th, the team will be part of the Fireworks 250 race in Barstow, Calif., as a testing ground to make additional improvements to the truck for the Baja 1000 race. Modifications include testing different camshaft profiles and re-mapping the engine. The changes are designed to increase driveability for Stewart, allowing him to shift less during the endurance races.

The MCI Off-Road Team most definitely expects a win at the 30th anniversary of the Baja 1000. When you combine the same effort and goals with pit support, manpower and reliability there's no stopping them. The race will be held on Nov. 12-15 in Ensenada, Mexico.



Precision Preparation Inc. "On Location"



1. The MCI Racing Team competed in the Rio 400, located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in the fifth round of the PPG CART World Series

2. "Mad" Max Papis eagerly awaits his turn to qualify at the new Gateway International Raceway in St. Louis

3. Iain Watt, engineer for the MCI Racing Team, Max Papis and Hiro Matsushita discuss set-up strategies at the 1.25-mile oval in St. Louis



4. MCI Racing's Indy car brings the fans to their feet at The Milwaukee Mile

5. The Arciero-Wells Panasonic Duskin Racing Team looks over the car before the Detroit Grand Prix

6. PPI's MCI Toyota Atlantic cars enter the Milwaukee track for a practice session

7. The MCI crew practices its pit stops, which need to range from 10 to 14 seconds to be competitive during a race





Jeff Krosnoff

September 24, 1964-July 14, 1996

What we remember most about Jeff was his infectious smile and laugh.

He lived every second of his life to its fullest potential,

uncompromisingly and truthfully.

His enthusiasm made a lasting impression on everyone

who had the good fortune to meet him.

We miss our gifted driver and our great friend.



MCI Q&A

How does the MCI Racing team get its race cars and transporters to races such as Australia, and what equipment do they bring?

CART, the sanctioning body of the series, charts a plane from Rocket Cargo to transport the equipment from LAX to the Gold Coast for the Sunbelt IndyCarnival Australia event. The cars are stored on custom-built racks in the cargo of the plane. The pit equipment, parts, computers, and supplies are all being packed into insulated tote bins and on 4'x4' pallets. The cargo plane departs from LAX on Saturday and arrives in Australia Monday morning to be delivered to the teams at the race track. Sunday, after the race, everything will be packed up again and flown back to LAX. Lastly, the teams will pick up their equipment and get ready for the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach. To support the CART entries of Max Papis and Hiro Matsushita, Arciero-Wells will be taking 16,000 lb. (excluding the cars) of equipment. The manifest list includes: Four Reynard cars, eight Toyota engines, two timing/engineering stands, 20 sets of BBS wheels, four engine stands, four transmission stands, four engine heaters, 12 wheel guns, four radiators, 50 boxes of car parts (24"x30"x24"), 40 gallons of oil, 10 quarts of brake fluid, 20 axle sets of brake rotors, 42 axle sets of brake pads, 25 regulators for nitrogen, 25 air hoses, four body work stands, six undertray stands, 50 radios and headsets, 25 MOMO fire suits, four fuel helmets, 12 Snap On Tools toolboxes, four starter carts and 10 starters.



An Invitation to Excellence: The MCI Racing Powered by Toyota Fan Club

■ The easiest way to catch the latest news about Precision Preparation Inc. (PPI) is by joining the MCI Racing Powered by Toyota Fan Club. You'll become part of one of the most exciting motorsports teams in the industry that is growing. This year, PPI has expanded with an impressive turnout that includes a PPG CART World Series team, a KOOL/Toyota Atlantic Championship team and a SCORE Trophy Truck off-road racing team.

As a fan club member you will receive these exclusive benefits:

- A subscription for six issues of the official MCI Racing Powered by Toyota newsletter.
- An MCI Racing Powered by Toyota membership card.
- An autographed picture from one of the MCI Toyota drivers—Ivan "Ironman" Stewart, "Mad" Max Papis, Jeret Schroeder or Leo Parente.
- An official MCI Racing lapel pin.
- An MCI Racing Powered by Toyota team T-shirt.
- Best of all—the opportunity to participate in a fan club luncheon with the drivers during a race weekend.

VISIT US ON THE WEB!

Get updated on all the latest news on the Arciero-Wells/MCI Racing Team and the MCI Toyota Atlantic Team. Come join PPI, MCI and Toyota on the net!
www.mciracing.mci.com or
www.toyota.com

MCI Racing Powered by Toyota Fan Club Application

☐ **YES!** I want to become a fan club member of PPI. Enclosed is \$20 for my first-year membership. It is my understanding that the annual renewal is \$20 and due in the month of my membership anniversary. Please make check payable to Precision Preparation Inc. and return with application to: Precision Preparation Inc. ATTN: MCI Racing Powered by Toyota Fan Club, 30212 Tomas, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 or visit the MCI Racing website to join at www.mciracing.mci.com

Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. Outside USA membership fee is \$30.
Please send my fan club newsletters and gifts to:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

T-Shirt Sizes

Sm. ☐ Med. ☐
Lg. ☐ XL ☐

Select one 8x10 picture of your favorite MCI Powered by Toyota drivers:

☐ Ivan Stewart ☐ Max Papis
☐ Leo Parente ☐ Jeret Schroeder



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