

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENGLISHTOWN, NJ – For nitro Funny Car rookie Blake Alexander, the 43rd Annual Toyota NHRA SuperNationals is not just another race. It marks a major milestone with long-time supporter Gates Auto. His Paul Smith-tuned Funny Car will be sporting a special-edition Gates look.

“Gates has been supporting my racing efforts since I was sixteen. Their involvement early on in my career was really a boost that has helped me get to this point. To have them on-board over seven years through Comp Eliminator, Top Alcohol Dragster, and now Nitro Funny Car, it’s really special,” said the 23-year old college student.

Blake is looking forward to putting his last race behind him. A positive weather forecast and lessons learned at Atlanta have Alexander and the Paul Smith Racing team expecting better results in Englishtown.

“From our team’s perspective, we’re hoping to have everything run a little smoother. We tried to incorporate some new parts into the system that didn’t quite work out as anticipated. The team found the gremlins, so we’re hoping to be quicker and a little more consistent to get the Gates car qualified,” Blake said.

Following the SuperNationals, the Gates body will run again in Bristol, Tennessee for the Thunder Valley Nationals, then again at the U.S. Nationals and Fall Nationals.

Funny Car qualifying at the Toyota NHRA SuperNationals starts off on Friday afternoon with two sessions, followed by two more sessions on Saturday. Eliminations are set for 11 am on Sunday. Two hours of qualifying coverage will air on ESPN at 4:30 pm (ET) on Saturday. ESPN2 eliminations coverage starts at 4:30 pm on Sunday.

About Gates:

Gates Corporation (gates.com) is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of industrial and automotive products, systems and components with operations in 30 countries. Gates maintains sales and marketing operations in every major industrial and automotive market, including North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East.

Gates is part of the Industrial & Automotive group of Tomkins Ltd., which is owned by a consortium comprising Onex Corporation and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. Tomkins enjoys strong market positions and technical leadership across all of its business activities and owns some of the best-known brands in their respective markets.

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Blake Alexander Racing is a company that was started and maintained by nitro funny car driver Blake Alexander while in college. Blake worked his way up from Jr. Dragsters through the competitive sportsman ranks, now achieving his goal of driving a professional Nitro Funny Car. Through his efforts on and off the track, Blake secures corporate sponsorships and works actively with each supporter to activate and stimulate their respective brands from market to market. Blake Alexander drives for iconic master tuner Paul Smith, who owns and operates Paul Smith Racing out of Boynton Beach, Florida.

Companies that support Blake Alexander Racing include: Auto Service Plus, Gates Rubber Company,

Exide Batteries, Tenneco Automotive, Valvoline, Standard Motor Products, and Pro Jack Race Car Stands.

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