

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 28, 2009

CRAFTON HOPES FOR TRIUMPHANT TALLADEGA VISIT

When it comes to Talladega Superspeedway, *wild* is the operative word, a description that applies equally to action on and off the track. Unlike anywhere else in NASCAR, Talladega conjures images in the minds of drivers and race fans of a beast beyond control, and none would have it any other way. Matt Crafton hopes, however, that when the smoke from Saturday's Mountain Dew 250 at Talladega clears, his No. 88 Menards Chevrolet Silverado will be sitting in Victory Lane.

"Talladega is awesome," Crafton said. "It's door-to-door drafting at 190mph, and it can be mentally-draining. During practice, you get an idea of which of the other trucks your truck seems to suck-up best with in the draft, and you go from there. During the race, you have to find the groove that best suits your truck. There's so much about this race that is impossible to predict. You just have to be smart, and hope that you don't get caught up in someone else's trouble. Hopefully, we can take our Menards Chevy to Victory Lane on Saturday."

While he would prefer a win, of course, Crafton will gladly accept anything that aids his effort to quickly gain chunks of points in his battle for a first NCWTS championship. He is in second place in the NCWTS standings and faces a sizeable point-disadvantage with four races remaining this season. Crafton has finished outside the top-10 in each of his three previous NCWTS starts at Talladega.

"Our goal each time out is to win races, period," said Crafton. "That's our focus, and it never changes. We know we need some help in the points-deal, but we've seen that anything can happen week-to-week in this series. We can only focus on trying to control what's happening with our team, and whatever else happens, happens. For the most part, we've been good at putting ourselves in position to win races, and, hopefully, we can do it again on Saturday. As always, the race will be a heck of a show for drivers and fans."

Crafton would relish adding his name to the list of winners at Talladega. "There's just so much history at Talladega, so many great drivers who have found a way to get to Victory Lane there," he said. "It would be special to be able to add my name to that list. We'll try to be in position with a few laps to go on Saturday, and, from that point, it's a roll of the dice."