



## Tony Kester

Tony began his racing career in 1972 in a home-built Corvair Monza, winning his first race and finishing second in the season championship in 1973. Since then he has won dozens of MCSCC, NASA, and SCCA races, including the June Sprints and the 1990 Formula Ford National Championship Runoffs. He has also come home first in professional races in Pro Sports 2000, Olds Pro, and Koni Challenge, winning the Olds Pro Series Championship in 1991. In 1992, Tony was inducted into the prestigious Road Racing Drivers Club, founded by Mark Donahue, and now headed by IndyCar champion Bobby Rahal.

In the nineties Tony competed in IMSA Prototypes in races including the Rolex Daytona 24, Sebring 12 hour races, and Petit LeMans. Switching to GT cars, he led teams to seventh, fourth and second place finishes in a BMW in 1999, and Porsches in 2001 and 2002 respectively in the Rolex 24 Hour. In 2002 he also competed in a Porsche in the 24 Hours of LeMans, running fourth until sidelined by a broken axle. That year he was honored as one of the top Porsche drivers in the world at the Porsche Cup banquet at their facility in Weissach, Germany.

Tony has tested or raced over 200 different models of racecars for individuals, race teams and manufacturers including Lola, Reynard, Tiga, Porsche, Ferrari, Mazda, Oldsmobile, Toyota, Pratt Miller, Carl Haas Auto, Orbit Racing, Hoosier, Goodyear, Yokohama, and many others. The chassis range from Formula Vee to Formula Atlantic, small bore GT cars to TransAm, and Sports 2000 to ALMS Prototypes, including thousands of miles in the record breaking Oldsmobile Aerotech Land Speed Record cars.

In 1988 Tony pioneered the use of onboard data acquisition as an aid to driver development, and since then has coached drivers at all levels of racing. His students have won hundreds of amateur and professional races, including the SCCA runoffs, Daytona and LeMans 24 Hour races, and the Indy 500.

For thirteen years he served as a senior instructor at the Mid Ohio School, and was instrumental in the development of their teen, high performance, and competition programs. Tony moved to the Autobahn Country Club Joliet in 2009 as Chief Instructor and Director of Driving Programs, establishing that facility as one of the premier driver training facilities in the Midwest.

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