

Frank Kimmel Aiming for First Daytona Victory

(TOLEDO, Ohio - January 23, 2011) - Frank Kimmel's final position on the testing chart at Daytona International Speedway two weeks ago was uncharacteristic for the nine-time ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards champion, but he remains undeterred in his quest for a 10th championship and first Daytona win.

Kimmel, who elected not to take the No. 44 Ansell/Menards Ford on track in the third and final day of testing, finished the week 52nd of 58 drivers, mustering only a best lap of 50.596 seconds (177.88 mph). Kimmel did not participate in either drafting session.

But to forget that Kimmel finished fourth in driver points last season and even led the standings late in the summer, despite not winning a race, is too quick and likely, too negative an assessment. He insists that the speed will come, but stability is the key.

"We stumbled on a few things at the end of last year and the cars were actually running well. We just had some (did not finish results) and uncharacteristic problems at the end of the year, so we've got to eliminate our problems and take care of the stuff we can take care of. I thought, all in all, that the car became much more competitive by the end of the season last year. If we can keep them that competitive and eliminate some of the issues that we have as far as durability, I think we should be in good shape," Kimmel said.

Though a potential 10th series championship and first since 2007 hangs in the balance, winning at Daytona in February 12's Lucas Oil Slick Mist 200 is the first priority - not only for Kimmel's position in the point standings, but for his psyche.

"Everybody would quit asking me, 'When are you going to win Daytona?' Yeah, I think it'd be a nice thing to have on your resume that you won at Daytona, and we haven't done it yet. It's an important thing for us," Kimmel said.

Should he come through in his 20th ARCA Racing Series start at Daytona, he'll do it on a newly-paved surface he considers one of the best in racing. The 2.5-mile superspeedway oval's resurfacing has opened to positive reviews by many drivers across numerous disciplines.

"It's just amazing. I guess the same people that did Talladega did this, and they really are good at their job. What a nice race track; it's got a couple little bumps in (Turns) 3 and 4, but nothing compared to what it was. It's really, really nice," he said.