



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## IT'S "THE FAST & THE FAMOUS" IN 2008 TOYOTA PRO/CELEBRITY RACE

*John Salley, Drew Lachey, Raymond Cruz, Wilmer Valderrama and Eric Dickerson  
Among the Stars Set to Get Behind the Wheel of Race-Ready Scion tCs for Charity on  
Saturday, April 19*

LONG BEACH, Calif. (March 11, 2008) – An eclectic roster of stars of film, television and sports will strap into brand new race-ready Scion tCs to vie for the checkered flag in the world's longest-running, most successful celebrity racing event: the Toyota Pro/Celebrity Race on Saturday, April 19, part of the 34th annual Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach.

The field of 18 is revved up for competition in this historic, 10-lap race for charity on a 1.97-mile street circuit through the downtown streets of Long Beach in Southern California. The Pro/Celebrity race, one of six featured events during race weekend, gives fans a chance to see their favorite stars duke it out on the track during exciting action-packed competition.

This year's field includes the following group of fiercely competitive entertainment personalities, sports stars and media:

- **Drew Lachey** Singer and actor, best known as the second-season winner of ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* and member of the group 98 Degrees. Appeared on Broadway in "Rent."
- **Raymond Cruz** Actor, best known for his roles as Det. Sanchez on CBS's *The Closer* and as Tuco in the critically acclaimed AMC series *Breaking Bad*. Film roles include "Clear and Present Danger," "The Substitute," "The Rock," and "Training Day."
- **Wilmer Valderrama** Actor, best known for the role of Fez in the FOX sitcom *That '70s Show* and host of MTV's *Yo Momma*.
- **Eric Dickerson** Pro Football Hall of Famer, widely considered to be one of the greatest running backs in NFL history. In his 10-year career, played for the Los Angeles Rams, Indianapolis Colts, Los Angeles Raiders and Atlanta Falcons.
- **John Salley** Sportscaster, Emmy-nominated *Best Damn Sports Show Period*; four-time NBA champion. Retired from the NBA Detroit Pistons, Chicago Bulls and LA Lakers.
- **Daniel Goddard** Actor, starring as Cane Ashby on *The Young and the Restless*. Also played Dar on the *BeastMaster* TV series.
- **Jamie Little** ESPN/ABC pit reporter for NASCAR Nationwide and Sprint Cup Series. Has covered the Indy Racing League and both the Winter and Summer X Games.
- **Nancy Lieberman** ESPN women's basketball analyst. Renowned collegiate and WNBA professional basketball player and coach; member of the Basketball Hall of Fame; Olympic Silver Medalist.
- **Brad Lewis** Film producer and director. Executive Producer of Pixar's Academy Award winning film "Ratatouille," the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox hit "Broken Arrow" (with John Travolta and Christian Slater) and Dreamworks' "Forces of Nature" and "Antz."
- **William Fichtner** Actor, starring as FBI special agent Alexander Mahone in the FOX series *Prison Break*. Also appeared in Academy Award-winning best picture "Crash," as well as "Blades of Glory," "Armageddon," "Black Hawk Down," "Go," and "Heat."

Professional off-road racer, ESPN pit-reporter and feature host for the Champ Car World Series **Beccy Gordon** joins the "Pro" category with cyclist **Marty Nothstein**, the 2000 Gold and 1996 Silver Medalist in the 1000-meter (Sprint) Olympic Track Cycling competitions and 34-time U.S. Nationals Champion with titles in seven different events. Other Pro drivers include NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Champion **Mike Skinner**, NHRA Funny Car Champion **Tony Pedregon**, two-time NHRA U.S. Nationals Funny Car winner **Whit Bazemore**, and Grand-Am race car driver/fine jewelry designer **Sarena Traver** (who garnered a spot by bidding \$80,000 in the Boys and Girls charity auction).

The Southern California Toyota Dealer seat is being filled by **Bud Gordon**, General Manager of Quality Toyota of Corona. Rounding out the field is the second Boys and Girls Club charity auction winner **Craig**

**Barto**, whose matching \$80,000 donation also earned him a chance to challenge the celebrities and pros in this year's race.

"We're looking forward to one of the most competitive races since we created the Toyota Pro/Celebrity Race more than 30 years ago," said Les Unger, Toyota's national motorsports manager. "The Toyota Pro/Celebrity Race is renowned for attracting 'the fast and the famous' because it offers the unparalleled celebrity-pro challenge of real high-speed racing, combined with a chance to support a worthwhile charity."

Toyota will donate \$5,000 to "Racing for Kids" in the name of each celebrity racer, and another \$5,000 to the winning racer's charity of choice. Racing for Kids is a non-profit program benefiting children's hospitals in Long Beach and Orange County, Calif. Finally, a \$15,000 donation is made in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> annual "PEOPLE Pole Award." Sponsored by PEOPLE magazine, the award honors the pole-position winner of the Toyota Pro/Celebrity Race qualifying session on Friday, April 18. On behalf of the race and its participants, Toyota has donated close to \$1.6 million to various children's organizations since 1991.

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