



PONIES TAKE TWO IN A ROW IN GRAND-AM KONI CHALLENGE SERIES

By Greg AleckImages: Courtesy Grand-Am

Mustangs score two victories in a row in the Grand Sport (GS) class of the Grand-Am KONI Challenge Series. Scott Maxwell scored a home track victory, while giving himself, co-driver Joe Foster and the entire No. 55 Hyper Sport Supercuts Ford Mustang GT their first Grand-Am KONI Challenge Series GS class victory of 2007, in the Mosport 400k at Mosport International Raceway. "The Mustang was so good in the race," Maxwell said. "We struggled in practice but kept pushing and we never gave up. The two other quick Mustangs with (Kenny) Wilden in the one and I guess Emp (David Empringham) had a bad pit stop or something. It has been a few years since I won in Canada, I think in the early 2000s when I last ran for a Grand-Am championship. It is great to win in front of the home crowd, the family is here and it is great for Hyper Sport and Dan Davis from Ford who is here as well. It's all good." While

in round 7, Ken Wilden with co-driver Dean Martin took the No. 52 Rehagen Racing Piloti Ford Mustang GT to the checker in the team's first Grand-Am KONI Challenge Series Grand Sport (GS) division victory at Mid-Ohio. Wilden, who entered the race winless in the Grand-Am KONI Challenge Series was excited with his first career overall victory. "Everything was great up until the final yellow, when I saw that Porsche just out of nowhere," Wilden said. "I thought maybe he was a lap down, but my team said on the radio, 'No, no, no, he's coming.' He managed to use my rear bumper about three times on the last couple of laps pretty hard, and then came right inside me and broadsided me on the last lap. I managed to keep the car straight and keep the traction going, and we got ahead of him. Great race, Dean did an awesome job. I just got in the car and drove as hard as I could." Just after the season's midway point the Ponies lead the Manufactures Point Standings with five victories, four more than another manufacture.

MUSTANG CONTINUES TO RULE CONVERTIBLE COMPETITION

By Robert Musial, FCN News

Nothing captures that carefree, summertime, out-for-fun look better than a convertible. It promises soft breezes, sunshine and adventure—even when it's just parked at the curb. Considering those attributes, the identity of America's best-selling drop-top should come as no surprise.

"The Mustang convertible is the No. 1-selling convertible in the U.S.," said Robert Parker, the car marketing manager for Ford.

It's been that way since 2004. And this year, the Mustang convertible continues to gallop past its competitors by better than a 2-1 margin.

The enthusiasts at *Car and Driver* magazine have touched on why the Mustang convertible is a sales success.

"There aren't many four-seat convertibles that cost less than 30 grand and none of them have the alluring character of the Mustang. The looks are undeniably nostalgic, and in V-8 GT form, it's got the burbly muscle-car soundtrack of a bygone era. We want one," wrote the editors.

Ford is happy to oblige, with four Mustang convertibles in different trims plus special models like the GT California version and the limited edition Warriors in Pink model.

For collectors, the 2008 Shelby GT convertible hits the streets next month in a limited edition.

Along with Shelby and Ford Racing upgrades, this latest ride sports Vista Blue paint with silver stripes plus a 319 horsepower engine, 18-inch polished wheels and Hurst short-throw shifter—just what one needs to show off at a summer cruise.

Warm weather has been a part of Mustang's allure ever since the car was introduced in April 1964. From the start, Ford's oldest continually-produced car brand came in soft- and hard-top models.

"About one of every four Mustangs sold is a convertible. They're fun, affordable, and they represent open-air freedom," explained Dan Geist, Mustang's marketing manager, noting that nearly two-thirds of Mustang soft-tops are sold between March and October. Market data

shows that, with the average U.S. household now owning 2.2 cars, many convertibles are being purchased as third vehicles.

"People say, 'Let's have fun with it,' and buy a third car," Lonnie Miller, Polk's director of industry analysis, told Business Week magazine. "It's a segment that appeals to the id."

For the second year in a row, Mustang was the highest-ranked vehicle in the Midsize Sporty Car segment of J.D. Power and Associates Initial Quality Survey (IQS) of customers in their first three months of ownership.

For the third straight year, Mustang also took home top honors in its class in the J.D. Power's latest Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout Study (APEAL), which asks customers to rate their delight with their vehicle's design, content, layout and performance after three months of driving.

CALLING ALL CAR CLUBS!

How would you like to win \$1,500 for a favorite charity? Eagle One, this year, is inaugurating a \$1,500 grand prize for one of four car clubs winning its 15th annual Golden Rule Awards. The award recognizes and rewards a car club in four U.S. regions for outstanding achievement in community service.

The grand prize will go to the club that is judged to have performed the most compassionate action that benefited a person or group. The \$1,500 award will be donated to a charity designated by the club. A \$500 cash contribution will be made to a favorite charity of each of the three other winning clubs.

In addition to a total of \$3,000 in cash contributions from Eagle One and co-sponsor Valvoline, the two companies will provide a generous supply of premium appearance care products and motor oil for fund-raising purposes. A custom-designed award will also be given.

The Golden Rule Award will be presented to a car club in the west, midwest, east and south judged to have conducted the most outstanding community service program in their region during 2007.

An entry form may be obtained beginning October 1 by visiting www.eagleone.com or calling 1.818.501.1445. Deadline for entries is December 31, 2007. Winners will be notified by February 10, 2008.

Eagle One is a part of the Valvoline family of brands.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MCA REGIONAL CLUBS

MCA'S Bylaws state that all regional clubs are required to update their information annually. This means you must inform the MCA office of any changes in leadership, MCA Regional Director, addresses, etc. Call: 1.850.438.0626, or email mustang@mustang.org.

We want to keep you informed with all the current news and information. Without the proper contact information, that is not possible. Additionally, if two years passes and your club does not make contact with the MCA office, your club is removed from the mailing list until your information is updated. We don't want to lose touch with any of our clubs. Help keep your club members informed. Update your information!

—The Regional Club Support Committee

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