

## **Dodge//SRT Racers Hagan and Pruett Set to Chase Coveted NHRA Titles in Funny Car, Top Fuel at NHRA Pomona Finale**

- Dodge//SRT drivers Matt Hagan and Leah Pruett in position to capture coveted 2023 NHRA Camping World Series Championships in the Funny Car and Top Fuel classes, respectively
- Hagan and Pruett have their Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) Direct Connection Dodge//SRT nitro-burning machines ready for season finale this weekend (Nov. 10-12) at the NHRA In-N-Out Burger Finals
- Hagan, the three-time NHRA Funny Car World Champion, has the experience of fighting for a series title and now enters the Pomona race with a 15-point lead in his TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Hellcat Funny Car
- An eight-time Pomona winner, Hagan has six 2023 NHRA national event victories, including at Pomona in the NHRA Winternationals last April
- Pruett, a former champion in the Factory Stock Showdown and Nostalgia Funny Car categories, seeks her first Top Fuel title in the TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT dragster
- With NHRA wins at Norwalk and Dallas, Pruett comes to Pomona third in NHRA Top Fuel points, just 34 markers from the lead
- The NHRA In-N-Out Burger Finals is a hometown race for Pruett, having grown up in nearby Redlands, California
- Pruett has earned a previous Pomona victory, at the 2021 NHRA Winternationals
- Mopar Career Automotive Program (CAP) to host college students at Pomona, providing network opportunities with local dealerships
- Follow Dodge in NHRA action at [DodgeGarage.com](https://www.dodgegarage.com)

November 7, 2023, Auburn Hills, Mich. - Every NHRA professional driver seeks one goal when the season opens in March at the NHRA Gatornationals, and that is to be in contention for a coveted NHRA Camping World Series Championship at season's end.

After 20 events in the 2023 campaign, Dodge//SRT racers Matt Hagan and Leah Pruett are in those vaunted positions as the Tony Stewart Racing (TSR) pair come to the NHRA finale this weekend (Nov. 10-12) in the NHRA In-N-Out Burger Finals.

For Hagan, racing for a World Championship is nothing new, having captured three NHRA Funny Car titles in 2011, 2014 and 2020. The driver of the TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Hellcat Funny Car is right where he wants to be entering this weekend's event, leading the class by 15 points.

Hagan has had plenty of success at the famed Pomona, California, dragstrip throughout his career, with eight NHRA Funny Car victories, including last April in the NHRA Winternationals.

"We have led the Funny Car points for most of the season and have scored the most wins," said Hagan. "Dickie (Venables, crew chief) and our crew has given me a strong car all season long with this TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Hellcat, and our plan at Pomona is to keep those performances going for another championship. We won at Pomona in April, so we know we have the setups for another win. I think we'll have to advance to the final for a chance for the title.

"We have lost three races in the 'Countdown' by inches, which has taken some points away, but we also have won two races (St. Louis and Dallas) in the 'Countdown' and those were big for us. I've won eight Pomona races in my

career, so I feel confident coming to the final race of the year. We're ready with our Dodge//SRT Hellcat."

For Pruett, chasing a Top Fuel World Championship into the final race is a new experience, but she has the knowledge of her teammate Hagan and team owner Stewart, both multi-time motorsports champions, to help her quest for an initial pro title. She ranks third in NHRA Top Fuel points, 34 from the lead.

The Redlands, California, native has captured past drag racing titles including in Junior Dragster as a teenager, Nostalgia Funny Car and Factory Stock Showdown, so Pruett has experience entering final races with a championship on the line. Pruett is also no stranger to her hometown track's winner's circle, taking the Top Fuel honors in the 2021 Winternationals. She has two 2023 NHRA Top Fuel wins, at Norwalk and Dallas.

"Communication has been the key to our TSR Direct Connection Dodge//SRT crew this year," said Pruett. "Last year (2022) was our foundation season for TSR and we built on that in 2023. We have crew members who have won championships with other teams and that helps us heading to Pomona now. Neil Strausbaugh (Pruett's crew chief) is in his second season as crew chief and he has worked with a new chassis, blower combination and fuel system this year. So, it takes awhile to get all of the elements together, but we feel we are at our peak performance now.

"Going to Pomona, our team will look over all of the combinations we have had throughout the year. In the 'Countdown,' our car has been very consistent and at top performance. We have been filling in our 'playbook' so we can be our best at Pomona. We started early this year, as our Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Top Fuel team made more runs than anyone in testing. We made 27 'hits' before the season-opening Gatornationals and we established a good program this year to compete for a championship in the final race."

The NHRA In-N-Out Burger Finals event schedule will have two nitro qualifying sessions on Friday, Nov. 10, at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. PST and two nitro qualifying rounds on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. PST. The final eliminations will begin on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m. PST.

The Fox Sports 1 telecasts for the NHRA In-N-Out Burger Finals will air qualifying rounds on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. EST. The final eliminations will be televised on Fox Sports 1 on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 5 p.m. EST.

#### **TSR Crew Members to be Celebrated on Veterans Day**

Four of TSR's crew members will be celebrated on Saturday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans Day at the NHRA In-N-Out Burger Finals in Pomona. Those veterans – Thomas Brown, Kurt Johnson, Allen Oberbroeckling and Chris Shuron – perform unique positions within the Direct Connection Dodge//SRT Top Fuel and Funny Car teams.

Brown, who oversees body and tire preparation on Hagan's Funny Car, was a sergeant and squad leader in the Army. Johnson, TSR's track specialist, spent six years as a United States Marine Aircraft Fire Fighter during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Oberbroeckling, a member of TSR's hospitality team, was an 88M Motor Transport Operator in the Army. Shuron, a clutch assistant who handles tire preparation on Pruett's Top Fuel dragster, served in the Marines as a lance corporal.

#### **Mopar Career Automotive Program (CAP) Hosts College Students at Pomona to Network with Local Dealerships**

Students from three local schools – College of the Desert/Riverside Community College, Santa Ana College and L.A. Pierce Community College – will participate in a special Mopar Career Automotive Program (CAP) career networking event this Friday, Nov. 10, at the NHRA In-N-Out Burger Finals.

Mopar CAP partners with 100 colleges and technical schools throughout the nation in a curriculum to guide students into the automotive industry in a variety of applications. By incorporating the Mopar CAP curriculum, schools give students the ability to turn their passion for automotive activities into a career and assist them in gaining training and fundamental knowledge needed to work with some of the hottest vehicles in the industry from Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep®, Ram, FIAT and Alfa Romeo brands. Giving students a competitive edge, Mopar CAP

combines hands-on experience and classroom instruction from certified educators. Given the current shortage in the industry of skilled techs, Mopar CAP offers a great solution for training tomorrow's technicians.

At the In-N-Out Burger Pomona dragstrip, attendees will hear from the Mopar CAP leadership team, network

with local Stellantis dealers looking to hire qualified candidates to work in their store and enjoy lunch and a meet-and-greet with Hagan and Pruett in the Tony Stewart Racing hospitality area. For more information, visit [Mopar CAP](#).

#### **@DodgeMoparMotorsports on Instagram**

The [@DodgeMoparMotorsports](#) Instagram channel continues to share content capturing Dodge//SRT Mopar drivers on the track. Fans can see action from the NHRA Camping World Drag Racing Series and NHRA Sportsman grassroots racers, competing in classes such as Factory Stock Showdown, Stock and Super Stock, as well as additional motorsports series.

#### **Dodge//SRT**

For more than 100 years, the Dodge brand has carried on the spirit of brothers John and Horace Dodge. Their influence continues today as Dodge shifts into high gear with a lineup that delivers unrivaled performance in each of the segments in which the brand competes while moving forward to a future that includes electrified muscle in the form of the next-generation, all-new Dodge Charger.

The next-generation Dodge Charger electrifies a legend, with the Charger retaining its title as the world's quickest and most powerful muscle car led by the all-new, all-electric 2024 Dodge Charger Daytona Scat Pack. The all-new Dodge Charger will also offer performance choices via multi-energy powertrain options, including the 550-horsepower Dodge Charger SIXPACK H.O., powered by the 3.0L Twin Turbo Hurricane High Output engine.

Dodge also keeps its foot on the gas as a pure performance brand with the 710-horsepower Dodge Durango SRT Hellcat, the most powerful SUV ever, and best-in-class standard performance in the compact utility vehicle segment with the Dodge Hornet.

In 2022, the Dodge brand ranked No. 1 in the [J.D. Power APEAL Study](#) (mass market), making it the only domestic brand ever to do so three years in a row. In 2020, Dodge was named the "[#1 Brand in Initial Quality](#)," making it the first domestic brand ever to rank No. 1 in the J.D. Power Initial Quality Study (IQS).

Fans can follow all the NHRA action this season at [DodgeGarage](#), the one-stop portal for Dodge//SRT and Mopar drag-racing news, including daily updates and access to an online racing HQ, news, events, galleries, available downloads and merchandise. Dodge is part of the portfolio of brands offered by leading global automaker and mobility provider [Stellantis](#) (NYSE: STLA).

#### **Mopar**

Mopar is the global name for Stellantis genuine parts and authentic accessories.

A simple combination of the words MOtor and PARts, Mopar offers exceptional service, parts and customer-care. Born in 1937 as the name of a line of antifreeze products, Mopar has evolved over more than 85 years to represent both complete vehicle care and authentic performance for owners and enthusiasts worldwide.

Mopar made its mark in the 1960s during the muscle-car era with performance parts to enhance speed and handling for both on-road and racing use. Later, Mopar expanded to include technical service and customer support, and today integrates service, parts and customer-care operations in order to enhance customer and dealer support worldwide.

Complete information on Mopar is available at [www.mopar.com](http://www.mopar.com) and the newly redesigned Mopar blog at [www.blog.mopar.com](http://www.blog.mopar.com).

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