

Michael Shank Racing strong in VIR qualifying

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(Alton, VA) 28 April 2007— Michael Shank Racing will start from seventh and fourteenth on the grid in Sunday's VIR 400K with the two team Lexus-Riley entries in round four of the 2007 Rolex Sports Car Series season.

Burt Frisselle has rejoined the Playboy-liveried No. 6 for the VIR weekend and was put to work right away on Saturday as he assumed qualifying duties. Frisselle stepped up with a fast lap time of 1:46.451-seconds on the 3.27-mile natural terrain road course to secure a spot on the fourth row for Sunday's two and a half-hour Daytona Prototype-only event.

"That is all we had in the car," said Frisselle. "I think I might have got her a little bit dirty trying to get more out of it! But the balance was great and we should be in good shape for the race tomorrow."

Frisselle had to leave the VIR grounds right after qualifying to catch a flight to Motor Mile Speedway to race in the NASCAR Whelen short track event in Radford, VA. Frisselle will share the driving duties on Sunday with Ian James, who has led in two of the opening three Rolex events thus far this season.

In the sister Michael Shank Racing No. 60 entry of Mark Patterson and Oswaldo Negri, the qualifying effort was hampered when a hold up with the Grand Am officials kept Patterson from joining the fray until after the fifteen-minute session got underway. But the South African shrugged it off as he still got the most out of his Hoosiers with a fast lap time of 1:48.490-seconds for a spot on the seventh row of the grid.

"This is a solid start for tomorrow," said team owner Mike Shank. "Burt did a good job for us today and it's been great to have him back with us this weekend driving Henri's car. We haven't always had the best of luck at this track, but both our cars are quick and we think we are right where we need to be for good finishes with both cars tomorrow."

Speed Channel will bring live coverage of the race on Sunday starting at 1:00 PM ET.

About Michael Shank Racing

Based in Columbus, Ohio, Michael Shank Racing (MSR) was formed in 1989 when Michael Shank first began driving racing cars professionally. Shank retired from the cockpit in 1997 to focus his efforts on running the team, which quickly found success in the Champ Car Toyota Atlantic Championship. With several race wins under his belt, Shank was named as Team Owner of the Year twice in four years. MSR joined the Rolex ranks in 2004. MSR has five Rolex Sports Car Series podium finishes.