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MELANIE SNOW REJOINS PATRÓN GT3 CHALLENGE BY YOKOHAMA FOR SALT LAKE CITY

TOOELE, UTAH (JULY 9, 2010) – The race is right in her backyard, and in the end, it was too much to resist for Melanie Snow, who returns to the Patrón GT3 Challenge by Yokohama this weekend in her hometown of Salt Lake City, for the Larry H. Miller Dealerships Utah Grand Prix at Miller Motorsports Park.

Snow, a Salt Lake City resident, dominated the Gold Cup in 2009, finishing on top in class at four races and placing in the top three in nine of the other 10 events to win the Gold Cup championship (her husband Martin finished second in Platinum Cup). Her last race with the series was at Laguna Seca last October.

“I actually wasn’t going to run until Wednesday night!” says Snow. “I brought my car out on Tuesday to do some lead/follows with some guys – I hadn’t been in the car since October, so I thought it would be a fun test day. When I got back in the car, I thought, this feels at home again!

“I got excited, and I had other people tell me ‘you should run, your crew is here’ so it wasn’t hard to make me join.”

But the weekend is not without its share of difficulties to overcome. A problem with her #56 UIS/Snow Racing Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car has sent her to her husband Martin’s #57 car.

“I tested in my car on Tuesday and Wednesday, then again yesterday (in the promoter’s test day). My car felt good, but it just wasn’t fast. Then we had a problem with it and we parked it, so now I’m in my husband’s car for the weekend! So we’re starting all over from scratch and adjusting the set up now. It’ll be fine, I’ll come up to speed, but we lost the last few days of testing, they’re useless. But that’s racing. His car had a problem with overheating, so we’re working on that. I ran it the whole 45 minutes this morning and it did fine in clean air. I wasn’t quite as quick as I was in my car, but I’ll get used to it.”

Snow misses the series, the racing and her friends, but her young family is her priority now.

“Halfway through the season, we decided we needed to stay home. You’re on the road so much, and we love it, it’s like a family, but we can’t always take our family with us, especially during the school year. In hindsight, with the economy being a bit worse and business not being as good, it was a good decision, but I’m very happy to be able to do this one race, I’m so excited to be out here!”

But Snow hasn’t left racing completely, as she volunteers as an instructor at the Miller Performance School at Miller Motorsports Park.

“I help instruct in the Mustangs – they’re fun, but they’re bigger and have less horsepower than the Porsches. But I have a good time, I love the people out here so it’s fun coming out – and it still keeps the racing in my system!”





Photo credit: Rich Chenet

