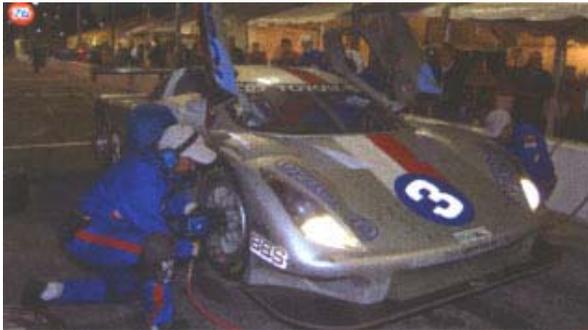


## R. J. VALENTINE: THREE FOR FOUR IN GRAND-AM



**Daytona Beach, Florida – July 3, 2003** Working his way through the stifling Florida heat, R. J. Valentine used his fitness training to overcome punishing heat in the cockpit to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the Grand-Am Paul Revere 250. Valentine, of Hingham, Mass., drove the Cegwa Sport Toyota Daytona Prototype (DP) in his fourth Grand-Am start of the year. After starting the season in the #68 Racer's Group Porsche 911 GT3 RS at the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona and at the Nextel Grand Prix of Miami, Valentine has successfully moved up classes to run the inaugural season of Daytona Prototype racing. He credits relentless training and vast experience driving all manners of cars with his achievements.

Valentine who has competed in the Pan-Mass Challenge, a two-day, 200 mile bicycle race which raises money for cancer, trains year-round for his twin passions of cycling and auto racing. For the Aug. 2 – 3 Pan Mass Challenge, RJ began training in April,

logging nearly 2500 miles of cycling in preparation. “Essentially, we ride 40-50 miles per day, 5 days a week, and throw in a couple 80-100 mile rides as well. Cycling for me serves two purposes – its gets me the workouts that I need, and riding in the heat acclimates me to the extreme conditions of the cockpit of a racecar. This year, my goal for the Pan-Mass is to finish again in the top 15% - I’ve been working out hard, and it’s going to pay off when I cross the finish line in Provincetown.” All the training seems to be working, as Valentine has three podium finishes in four starts thus far in the season.

In February, Valentine started his season with a drive in a Porsche 911 GT3 RS prepared by The Racer’s Group, the team that won an historic overall victory at the legendary endurance event. Valentine and his teammates were running in the top 10 in the 18<sup>th</sup> hour along with the leading sister car when a competitor punted the #68 car off the track. After the Rolex, RJ was approached by team-owner Kevin Buckler and asked to co-drive in the Daytona-winning #66 car at Homestead. Kevin knows how to run a race team, and he’s a great coach. Our result that weekend was 2<sup>nd</sup>, which was phenomenal. The Racer’s Group is the gold standard of GT racing, and it was a great opportunity for me.”

After Homestead, RJ moved up to a ride in the Cegwa Sport Toyota Daytona Prototype, and so far, he’s two for two in the DP class, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> in class at the Sahlen’s 6 Hours of the Glen in June.

At the Paul Revere 250, Valentine and co-driver Guy Cosmo overcame an engine replacement, which forced them to start the race 28<sup>th</sup> overall. Just after the start, RJ wove his way through the pack to 10<sup>th</sup> overall, and fought off a malfunctioning cool cap to position his car 4<sup>th</sup> in class. Cosmo picked his way through the field to capture 3<sup>rd</sup> place in class, good for 9<sup>th</sup> overall. The Boston businessman talked about the challenges of the heat: “It astounds me how hot and humid it gets in Florida in the summer – even at night it’s probably 125 degrees in the cockpit! I’ve used cool caps for years, and every so often there’s a problem. Unfortunately, tonight was one of the times when it malfunctioned. When I got out of the car, there wasn’t a single dry spot on my driving suit – even the patches were soaked. I’m fairly used to exerting myself in the heat – all those miles of sweating on the bike helped me tremendously tonight.”

The next race on the schedule for Valentine is the Grand-Am Bully Hill Vineyards 250 at Watkins Glen, on August 7-8.

For more information about Valentine’s companies, including F1 Boston, America’s premier karting facility, visit <http://www.F1Boston.com>.

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