



# THILENIUS GROUP

Press Release: Oregon Raceway Park Pro's and Joes – May 23, 2015

Hey! On May 23, 2015, I traveled to Oregon Raceway Park for the first time. In the Pacific Northwest there is a big group of extremely enthusiastic road racers. For the past few years, fellow IMSA racers Dan Rogers and James Colborn, have organized an event where professional drivers from IMSA are invited to race with the locals. For this year's Pros and Joes event, I was paired up with Jason Vein.

Due to my travel schedule, I did not to make it to Oregon Raceway Park for the test day. When I landed in Portland on Friday, I decided to make the trip out to the track, located a couple hours east up the spectacular Columbia River Gorge. I arrived just in time to join Jon Miller and some local racers on a sunset track walk. I had seen video from the track, but it did not do justice to the challenging ORP layout. I knew right away from the combination of elevation changes, road cambers and blind corners, I should have made time to run the test day!

I arrived early on Saturday morning to meet my co-driver for the weekend, Jason Vein.



While I knew learning the track was going to be a challenge, I did have the advantage of driving a familiar car. My first Pros and Joes event was in 2011 at Pacific Raceways. At that event, I drove a Pro3 E30 BMW owned by Dan Rogers that carried the iconic Tic Tac livery. Jason is the current owner of the Tic Tac BMW, so I re-acquainted myself with the car and took to the track for practice and qualifying. The practice session was

definitely a challenge, but by the end of the qualifying, I was starting to figure out ORP.

Since Jason had more experience at ORP, we decided I would start the one hour enduro and he would close. I took the green flag 11<sup>th</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Pro3 class. I held position in the first corner and after driving through a dust cloud on the exit tucked in behind the #30 E46 BMW. I had a good run through the second corner, but the #30 dumped some fuel out the overflow and coated my windshield, blinding me. I lost a couple positions before recovering and spent the rest of my stint chasing the #30. At the halfway point, I pitted to hand the car off to Jason. He did a great job and brought the Tic Tac BMW home 4<sup>th</sup> in class and 10<sup>th</sup> overall.

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