

Acura Racing History

Acura is now in its third decade as an auto manufacturer, but the lineage of the performance marque goes back some 60 years.

Started in 1948, the Honda Motor Co. enjoys a rich history in racing as company founder Soichiro Honda was a race enthusiast at heart. The legendary Mr. Honda led his company into racing immediately, and those forms of competition provided a tremendous training ground for engineers and designers of Acura cars.

Engineers who developed championship racing engines are often assigned to design the engines of Acura's passenger cars. In fact, the chief engineer of the race-inspired engine of the Acura RSX sports coupe previously worked on championship-winning Honda Formula One engines.



Soichiro Honda

Honda has been successful in every form of motorsports in which it has competed. Honda-

powered cars won six consecutive Formula One Constructors' World Championships (1986-91) and five consecutive Formula One Drivers' World Championships (1987-91).

Honda captured CART drivers' championships from 1996 to 2001, as well as four manufacturers' championships and 65 race victories from 1995 to 2002. Now competing in the IndyCar Series, Honda has scored four consecutive Indy 500 wins as well as driver championships from 2004-2007.

Despite being an infant in the automotive world, Acura has already established a racing legacy.

Race-prepared Acura Integra automobiles won two consecutive International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) International Sedan Manufacturers' Championships and three consecutive IMSA International Sedan Drivers' Championships (1988-90).

The Comptech Racing Acura Spice GTP Lights race car, powered by a modified Acura NSX engine, carried driver Parker Johnstone to three consecutive Manufacturers' Championships and three consecutive Drivers' Championships in the prestigious IMSA Camel GTP Lights series (1991-93). The Comptech Acura also captured the prestigious 12 Hours of Sebring in 1993.

In 2006, Acura announced the marque would enter the very competitive American Le Mans Series with three factory-supported teams (Andretti Green, Fernandez and Highcroft) competing in the 2007 LMP2 class against a variety of auto manufacturers, including Porsche and Mazda.

Acura debuted in sensational fashion in 2007 with Bryan Herta, Tony Kanaan and Dario Franchitti co-driving the Andretti Green XM Satellite Radio Acura ARX-01a to an LMP2 class victory in the 12 Hours of Sebring. The three Acura teams totaled 10 podium finishes in American Le Mans Series competition in 2007.