



Press Release

(For immediate Release) _____

RAPHAËL LESSARD RACING SIGNS WITH KBR DEVELOPMENT FOR AN ARCA SERIES RACE

March 9th, 2019 - Pensacola 200 at Five Flags Speedway

St-Joseph-de-Beauce (Quebec, Canada) – **February 22nd, 2019.** Young and promising Raphaël Lessard has added an important race to his 2019 calendar. On March 9th, he will be on track on the Five Flags Speedway in the ARCA series (Pensacola 200), in a car prepared by the KBR Development team. After three seasons during which the young driver has done wonders, especially behind the wheel of Super Late Model cars, Raphaël Lessard is turning this year to heavier and more powerful cars in series such as ARCA and NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck.

This race at Five Flag Speedway (Pensacola, Florida) augurs well for the young driver, who will be in his 7th race on this 0.8 km oval track that he knows well. Finding the right settings will be made easier during testing, qualifying, and pit stops.

His driving skills, already at the top level, will also be optimised, as he demonstrated last December during the Snowball Derby, the most important Super Late Model race in America, also held at Pensacola. After leading 60 laps at the end of the race, Raphaël Lessard had to retire with six (6) laps to go, due to an oil leak.

In addition, Raphaël Lessard already knows the members of the KBR Development team, having raced with them in 2018 at Jukasa (Hagersville, Ontario) in a Pro Late Model car, an experience that will facilitate on-track communications within the driver – crew chief - spotter. The team members already have well-established relationships, and the tests scheduled for February 28th will only strengthen these relationships.

Raphaël Lessard voiced his enthusiasm for the project. "I am impressed by the strength of my team. They understand the keys to ARCA racing and what's going on in my head. I already feel comfortable starting the new season and showing everyone my true potential in winning cars.

"I know I'll quickly get used to the extra 700 pounds and 150 horsepower of ARCA cars compared to the Super Late Model I'm used to. I know we can ride among the leading pack in Pensacola, especially with my physical and mental preparation," said the driver, convinced of the good results that will come.

KBR Development owner Mike Bursley shares the positive attitude of the young driver. "We are all very excited about this new step in our ARCA series program. Raphaël Lessard is a promising and exciting driver, and we are proud to count him among our drivers for a very important race for him and our team," said the owner and team leader of KBR Development.

Pre-Race Program

This week marks the beginning of a very busy season for Raphaël Lessard, with a trip to KBR's workshop to adjust the seat. In addition, he will be attending the NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series race this weekend (February 23rd) in Atlanta as a crew member of Kyle Busch Motorsports team, to familiarize himself with the process and features of this type of event.

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Photo credit: Bruce Nuttleman

High resolution pictures: <https://bit.ly/2Is9C6b>

ABOUT RAPHAEL LESSARD

Born on July 5th, 2001, in St-Joseph-de-Beauce, Quebec, Canada, Raphaël Lessard is one of the hottest prospects in North-American racing today. Raphaël made his debut as a race car driver in 2013, around local tracks in the Quebec City area. A quick learner, Lessard moved up the ranks through 2014, and in 2015 caught the eye of ex-NASCAR Cup Series driver David Gilliland. This led to Lessard running in last four races of the season on the PASS North Tour; an asphalt late model division, driving for David Gilliland Racing. In 2016, his first full-time season with Gilliland, Lessard won the CARS Super Late Model Tour Championship with four wins, eight top-five and nine top-ten finishes in his No. 99 Toyota Camry. He also became the youngest Canadian race car driver to win in a USA-based major stock car series. Since 2016, Lessard is part of Toyota's prestigious driver development program (TRD). To this day, he is the only Canadian to be recruited into this program.

[Raphael Lessard Racing](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

2018 - Competed in 16 Super Late Model events for Kyle Busch Motorsports

- Earned **two wins, seven top-five** and **13 top-10** finishes
- **Won the U.S. Short Track Nationals** at Bristol Motor Speedway
- **Won the Red Bull 400** at Anderson Speedway
- **Led 60 laps at the prestigious Snowball Derby** in December, when a leak put him out of the race with 6 laps to go.

2017 - Competed in **20 Super Late Model and two ARCA Series events**

- Earned **two wins and eight top-five finishes in Super Late Model competition**
- Captured **one top-10 in two starts in ARCA competition**

2016 – Competed in 10 races

- CARS Super Late Model Series **Champion**
- **Youngest Canadian driver to win** in a USA-based major stock series
- **Four wins, eight top-five and nine top-10** finishes in the 10-race schedule
- **Voted most popular driver in North America for 2016 by Speed51.com**
- Named **Top-10 Pavement Short Track Driver to watch in 2017** by Speed51.com
- Voted as the **seventh-ranked driver in the United States by Speed51.com's Short Track Power Ranking**

ABOUT KBR Development

KBR is a full-time ARCA Menards Series racing program operating out of Zeeland, Michigan. Featuring an 11,000-square-foot headquarters, KBR works with only the best industry experts and top manufacturers in all aspects of operation. Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series winner Erik Jones, Raphaël Lessard, Brandon McReynolds and Carson Hocevar are just a few of the talented drivers to have driven for the team.

ABOUT FRL EXPRESS inc.

F.R.L. Express Inc. is a general trucking company founded in December 2004 by François Lessard. It specializes in general transportation in closed trailers, on short or long distances, in Canada and in the United States. Our team now employs about fifty logistics specialists as well as ten truck drivers. We are proud of our business growth and evolution since our inception and recognize the hard work of every member of our team who contributed to our success. Our business priorities are taking care of our team members, providing flawless customer service, and ensuring complete customer satisfaction. We contribute to the success of our son Raphaël Lessard and are very proud of his accomplishments.

2019 SEASON

DATE	RACE	SERIES	TEAM	START	RESULTS
March 9, 2019	Five Flags Speedway, Pensacola, USA	ARCA	KBR Development		
March 23, 2019	Martinsville Speedway, Virginia, USA	Gander Outdoors Truck	Kyle Busch Motosports		
May 3, 2019	Dover International Speedway, Delaware, USA	Gander Outdoors Truck	Kyle Busch Motosports		
August 15, 2019	Bristol Motor Speedway, Tennessee, USA	Gander Outdoors Truck	Kyle Busch Motosports		

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