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ExtenZe Racing & NEMCO Motorsports to Assist the Joliet Police Department in the Unsolved Hit & Run Homicide Case of Melissa Lech

Joliet, IL – As part of the **'**ExtenZe Local Hero' program, 2010 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Rookie-of-the-Year driver Kevin Conway is stepping up to assist the Joliet Police Department (JPD) Investigation Division in the unsolved hit and run homicide case of Melissa Lech. Conway's No. 87 ExtenZe Toyota will carry the images of Lech along with JPD contact information on the car's deck lid for the Dollar General 300 powered by Coca-Cola NASCAR Nationwide Series race at Chicagoland Speedway on Saturday, September 17, 2011.

Lech was a 20-year-old University of Illinois student home on summer break in August of 2008. On Wed., Aug 6 of that year she attended a White Sox game and afterwards hung out with friends at a local restaurant. In the early morning hours of Aug. 7, 2008 Lech left the establishment on foot. A short time later she was struck and killed by an unknown vehicle last seen traveling East bound on McDonough Street just west of Infantry Drive. The offending vehicle never stopped. Joliet Police received a 911 call by a citizen who arrived on the scene and found Melissa. There were no direct eye witnesses but several witnesses arrived on-scene shortly after the incident and were interviewed in-depth. Several vehicles have also been examined for any trace evidence.

The JPD continues to prioritize this investigation, working diligently to bring this investigation to an end and help Melissa's family and friends find closure.

"This was a tragic crime committed against a young girl who had a bright future ahead of her," said Joliet Police Department Interim Chief Michael P. Trafton. "The person responsible must be brought to justice. We are hoping someone will see this race car carrying the image of Melissa Lech on TV or in the news and it will trigger someone to come forward to give us the missing information we need to solve this case. We think it is tremendous what Kevin Conway, ExtenZe Racing and NEMCO Motorsports are doing to assist us in this case and can't thank them enough."

Anyone with additional information should contact Detective Ross of the Joliet Police Department Investigations Division at 815-724-3045 or jross@jolietcity.org. Callers who

wish to remain anonymous can call Will County Crimestoppers at 1-800-323-6734.

“At ExtenZe and NEMCO Motorsports we like to do our part to give back to the communities and markets we race in and couldn’t be more thrilled to help out and honor the Joliet Police Department with the Melissa Lech case,” said Conway. “This case has escaped the people of Joliet and law enforcement long enough and we just want to step up and shed a new light on this case the best we can. With the reach and platform NASCAR gives us we hope that by carrying the image along with contact information on my car of Melissa we will reach that one person out there that may know something that could help solve this case.”

The ***‘ExtenZe Local Hero’*** program pays tribute to people who have gone to great lengths to make a difference in their communities. Those selected have faced danger, sacrificed their own safety for others or in some way displayed leadership that changed their community for the better. Award recipients are eligible to become ExtenZe Racing Honorary Crew Chiefs, receive a tour of the paddock, attend the pre-race NASCAR Driver/Crew Chief meeting, and sit atop the pit box with Crew Chief Steven Gray to root on driver Kevin Conway piloting the royal blue and red No. 87 ExtenZe Toyota.

Fans can visit www.ExtenZeRacing.com to nominate their own local heroes. Also check in on blog/twitter feeds for the latest information on ExtenZe Racing and Kevin Conway.

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.visitjoliet.org or call 815.724.4000.

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