

A LETTER FROM WES BUCK

I was nine years old the first time I saw a Pro Mod race. It was 1993, at Eddyville Raceway Park in Oskaloosa, Iowa, a track I would end up running as general manager years later.

I did not have the words for it then. I just knew that whatever I was looking at was the thing. The variety of the cars. The drivers, who all seemed like characters out of a movie. The rivalries. The noise. It was a spiritual marker for me, and most of what I have built since traces back to it.

The World Series of Pro Mod exists because I believe Pro Modified is the future of drag racing. I believe it is the universal language of this sport.

These are race cars that look like life-size Hot Wheels, driven by cowboys and cowgirls. It is the motorsports equivalent of bull riding. They are violent, they are unpredictable, and they are not for the faint of heart. A Pro Mod covers the eighth-mile, about two city blocks, in three and a half seconds, approaching and sometimes exceeding 220 miles an hour.

Zero to 220 in 3.5 seconds. Talent matters. Skill matters. Experience matters. All of it still plays second fiddle to the courage it takes to strap into one of these things.

And here is the part I never get tired of. They still look like cars. Sixty-nine Camaros. Sixty-seven Mustangs. Vintage Corvettes, ZR1s, ZL1s, Vipers. Four thousand horsepower under a body somebody's dad used to drive to work. That matters to people in a way this sport does not talk about enough.



Pro Mod is also the only professional category in drag racing successfully contested all over the world. In 2025, close to 200 Pro Mod teams earned points in a regional or national touring series. Nothing else at this level of the sport comes close to that kind of participation, and that is exactly what makes this race possible. We hand-select the best of them and bring them to one place, at one time, to find out who is who under the brightest lights.

It stays reachable, too. Pro Mod is the entrepreneur's division: small business owners, independent operators, do-it-yourselfers. There are world-class professional teams in it now, and there is still a way in for a guy who builds his own car in his own shop. It is the highest level of grassroots drag racing on earth.

The rest of the year these racers are scattered across a dozen series and a hundred racetracks and most never cross paths. This is the one weekend that pulls them together. We have had drivers from all over North America, and from Australia, Puerto Rico, the Middle East, Russia and Sweden.

My goal was to build one drag race that could energize the entire drag racing world.

What I saw at nine years old, and what I still see, is possibility. If this sport has a best foot to put forward, it is Pro Mod. Above all else, it is what these racers, these fans and this sport deserve.

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