

Teaming Up at Indy

— story by Herb Hilton

— photos courtesy of Herb Hilton

I along with 15 others from CVAR was fortunate to compete in the Indy Legends Pro-Am Race, where 100% of the proceeds went to charity. There were 33 cars entered and I was paired with Jaques Lazier, son of Bob and brother of Buddy, to drive my 1967 Ford Mustang. When I first met Jaques, he told me that he had two chores: making sure I had fun, and returning my car in the same condition he received it.

Since the pros had never driver our cars, SVRA scheduled a 30-minute practice session. As soon as the practice session started it began to rain and my car was first off track, so I assumed there was something wrong mechanically, but Jaques was simply not going to put my car in a dangerous situation so he pitted.

The next practice session went well, and he was able to get familiar with the car and the way it handled. After the practice he returned the car with a smile, saying that she was “an angry bitch.”



Herb Hilton was paired with Jaques Lazier for the SVRA Indy Legends Pro-Am, taking to The Brickyard in Herb's 1967 Ford Mustang.



During the drivers meeting, one of our members, Cynthia Trifilio, circulated a helmet that all the pros signed and Steve Seitz did the same with 10 CVAR caps all of which will be auctioned off at our awards banquet with the proceeds going to our worker's fund.

Saturday finally arrived, and just as the race was to begin, it started raining which led to a delay of over an hour. Before the race there was a photo op-on the bricks. I noticed that Jaques would not step on the bricks and I asked him why. He answered, “you have to win to earn the honor to step on the bricks.” We agreed on a race strategy calling for me to take the car out for the first 20 laps before coming in for

the mandatory, 5-minute pit stop. As Jaques was getting behind the wheel I told him the car, had developed a front-end vibration under heavy braking and to be careful. He just smiled and told me not to worry.

We started in 19th and finished 11th. Fellow Corinthian Vintage Racing member, Jim Caudle and Bob Lazier, driving a 1971 Corvette, did prevail with no problems and wound up taking the checkered flag. One of my teammates asked Jaques if he wanted to race his car next year and he replied, “Thanks but I think I'll stick with Herb's car.”

This was a lot of fun. I had a ball and can't wait until next year.

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