



PRESS INFORMATION

Champlin Racing Division
Northwest Imports, Ltd.
Enid, Oklahoma

LAURIE PENNELL- Chief Mechanic

Champlin Racing's chief mechanic is London-born, 31-year-old Laurie Pennell, who since 1966 has been crew chief and chief mechanic for Holman-Moody.

Pennell began his apprenticeship with Jaguar in 1958 and after three years joined Ferrari where he served as a team mechanic for 2½ years. Surtees, Hill and Bonnier were team drivers at that time with Jackie Stewart as reserve driver. He participated in Ferrari's winning GT efforts at Rheims, LeMans and Spa.

Pennell worked with Alan Mann during 1955 in developing the 289 Ford-powered GT40 for LeMans and Sebring with Graham Hill driving. He enjoyed watching his 289's lead the 427 Shelbys at Sebring until the 8th hour when both of their cars broke on the same lap.

He joined Shelby for 1966 to build the 427 LeMans cars based upon Eric Broadly's chassis, developing them into the now famed Ford Mark II and Mark IV cars. The GT endurance program was then shifted to Holman and Moody and Pennell went with it to help earn the 1966 and 1967 World Championships with Ruby, Hulme, Andretti and Bianchi being the drivers for whom Pennell crewed.

In 1968 Pennell also headed up Parnelli Jones' Holman-Moody stock car team and then took on the development work on the Mario Andretti Ford-powered Can-Am car for 1969.

During 1970, Pennell heads the crew of Champlin Racing's Lola-Chevy T190 for Gus Hutchison's entry in the L&M Continental Series.

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