



In PRANCING HORSE No. 101 we told you about Ed Wettach's 308 GTB currently being raced in SCCA's GT2 class by Tom Shelton, and their fourth place at the Valvoline National Runoffs at Road Atlanta. In past issues we've also covered the Ferrari France F40 LM entered in IMSA's GTO class and Mike Sheehan's 308 "GTO" intended for IMSA's GTU class (the GTO/GTU class structure is for production-based race cars with engines over (O) or under (U) three liters displacement). Bill Freeman also had Joe Huffaker build a small series of 308-based racers (PH 95), and now there's one more to add to the list.

Doug Pirrone is well known as the proprietor of Berlinetta Motor Cars, where he not only maintains and restores Ferraris but fabricates parts to convert Ferraris for track as well. For his own use, he has prepared a 208 GTB Turbo for the 1992 IMSA season. (Not a typo – the 208 was a two liter version of the 308, sold in Italy due to laws which heavily taxed the larger displacement cars. Horsepower from the "missing" liter was made up by adding a turbocharger as standard.) The car's first race appearance was at the IMSA race, "Zerex presents the Jamesway 300 Exxon Supreme Series 2 Hour Race for IMSA GTO/GTU/AAC," at Lime Rock Park last fall. Doug had qualified the Ferrari for the race, but while practicing amongst the Roush (Ford factory) Mustangs, Camaros, Nissan ZXs and such, a rear brake rotor disintegrated and locked up the suspension. There weren't enough

spare parts to repair the car prior to the race, so that was it.

Doug plans to race the 208 in IMSA during the 1992 season, but as with most efforts, plans are dependent on sponsorship. He hopes to run the car at the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona (after this issue is printed), but it's going to be a last-minute decision. The 12 Hours of Sebring is a strong possibility (it would be nice to see a Ferrari there again) as are other later races on the IMSA calendar. Winning against the factory-backed teams is extremely difficult at best, but Doug Pirrone intends to see that the Prancing Horse is again represented in American racing.

RACING NOW...

PART II

