



## **Road Course Champ Michelle Nagai Ready to Race the AAS Oval**

She's not your average girl. Besides her family and her dogs, car racing is her life and as of April 3, 2010, she will be racing a NASCAR Late Model at All American Speedway in Roseville. After nine years of road course racing, Michelle Nagai is up for a new challenge.

That challenge is racing on an oval track for the first time in her life. She tested at AAS in December 2009 and put down a 13.9 lap. She also practiced on two play days at the track, but that is the extent of her oval track racing experience.

Nagai is excited to race in the Whelen All American Late Model Series at AAS. She was only able to race three double race weekends last year due to economic reasons, and she's ready to get back in a race car.

"I'm really having fun," she said. "We're putting a little fun back in our racing."

She has been doing some kind of racing since she was a teenager. She was a Pro Jet Skier on the Budweiser Jet Sports Tour and won multiple championships in the Pro Men Modified division. She also spent time racing in offshore powerboats and then in shifter carts. She met her husband Steve, who is the tire specialist on her team, while racing jet skis. They married in 1993 and make their home in Loomis.

In 2002 Nagai and her family purchased two Southwest Tour Stock Cars and she raced for seven years in the SCCA Road Race Series and the American Stock Car Series at Laguna Seca, Infineon and Thunderhill Raceways. In 2005 she was runner-up in the GT 1 class, in 2006 she was the GT 1 champion, in 2007 she was the Super Production champion and in 2008 she was the GT 1 champion. .

Nagai is used to being on the pole and winning races and championships, so having to take a little time getting used to driving on an oval will require patience. She said she feels comfortable in her Late Model and is ready to go racing.

"After watching the Late Models run here at Roseville last year, I know I have my work cut out for me," she said. "This is a whole new challenge, coming from the road course racing. Josh Bews has been a lot of help coaching me at the track and working with the crew. We feel ready and can't wait to race".

Her mom and dad, Mike and Marilyn Mays, husband Steve, and Bews are her team. She

works for the family business, Berkeley Jet Drive, which manufactures propulsion systems for boats. She has associate sponsors--Berkeley Jet Drive, Red Line Oil, Bell and Motorcult/MotoGirl Apparel, but is always looking for more sponsorship.

You can see Nagai race Saturday, April 3, opening day at All American Speedway. Look for pure excitement in the always competitive NASCAR Whelen All American Series, Other divisions racing on the third include Modified, Street Stock and Bombers. For more information go to: [www.allamericanspeedway.com](http://www.allamericanspeedway.com)

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