



MINI MOTORSPORTS

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MINI JCW Team Revs Up for Fourth Full Season in the Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge Series

- *Team looking for a repeat victory at the famed Daytona International Speedway*
- *Driver shuffle will give every MINI JCW a shot at victory each race and a championship run this season*

Woodcliff Lake, NJ – January 24, 2018 – The [MINI JCW Team](#) and [MINI USA](#) will start their fourth full season in the Street Tuner class of the [Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge](#) series this weekend at the famous high banks of the [Daytona International Speedway](#) in Daytona Beach, Fla. The MINI JCW Team kicked off last season by showing the rest of the field that they were a force to be reckoned with after [Mat Pombo](#) and co-driver [Derek Jones](#) drove the [#73 MINI JCW to victory lane](#) at the track known as the “World Center of Racing.”

The big news for the MINI JCW Team this season is the shuffling of drivers that took place during the offseason. The #73 MINI JCW will now be piloted by 2013 ST Driver Champion [Mike LaMarra](#) and Mat Pombo. [Nate Norenburg](#) will qualify and start the #37 MINI JCW with Derek Jones finishing the race. These two driver pairs are set for the year hoping to build chemistry as the season progresses. The #52 MINI JCW will be driven by a three-man team at Daytona. [Jay Salinsky](#) will qualify and start the car, with Tyler Stone taking the wheel for the middle of the race and [Mark Pombo](#) closing out the four hour endurance race. Mark Pombo will be in the #52 MINI JCW for the season and will rotate through a number of co-drivers.

“We are really excited about the upcoming season,” said Luis Perocarpi, team owner, LAP Motorsports. “Our test sessions at the Roar went really well and our driver shuffle strategy will give every MINI JCW the opportunity to get to victory lane and a shot at the series championship at the end of the season.”

The MINI JCW recently completed a very successful [Roar Before the Rolex 24](#) test session, which confirmed the work the team conducted during the offseason developing a few technical modifications had improved the vehicle’s overall

performance on the track. Mat Pombo had the fastest time in the ST class. Derek Jones was third.

In addition to the 2017 season opening victory at Daytona, all three MINI JCW Team cars had a 1, 2 and 5 finish at [Watkins Glen International](#), with the #73 MINI JCW bringing home the win and the #52 MINI JCW sharing the podium in with a second place finish. Not long after dominating Watkins Glen, the team went on to grab a podium finish at [Canadian Tire Motorsports Park](#) in Bowmanville, Ontario. Mat Pombo and co-driver of the #73 MINI JCW Derek Jones finished the season 4th place in the championship standings and the team was third place in the Manufacturer's standings.

Throughout the entire season, technicians from MINI dealerships all over the country help support the team as part of the MINI Service Technicians Education Program (STEP). This weekend at Daytona the team will be supported by six MINI technicians from area dealers, including three from [Tom Bush MINI](#) in Jacksonville and three from [Orlando MINI](#).

The Indianapolis-based MINI JCW Team competes with a fleet of production-derived MINI John Cooper Works Hardtop race cars closely related to the [John Cooper Works Hardtops](#) that are currently on sale at MINI dealerships across the U.S. For information about the MINI JCW Team visit [MINIJCWTeam.com](#).

About MINI in the US

MINI is an independent brand of the BMW Group. In the United States, MINI USA operates as a business unit of BMW of North America, LLC, located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey and includes the marketing and sales organizations for the MINI brand. The MINI USA sales organization is represented in the U.S. through a network of 128 MINI passenger car dealers in 39 states. MINI USA began selling vehicles in the U.S. in 2002 with the introduction of the MINI Cooper and MINI Cooper S Hardtops. Since then, the MINI Brand in the U.S. has grown to encompass a model range of four unique vehicles.

About the MINI JCW Team

The MINI JCW Team, operated by LAP Motorsports ([@lapmotorsports](#)), drives MINI's most powerful Hardtop ever in the two-door John Cooper Works. The team competes in the fiercely competitive IMSA Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge. For additional information please visit [minijcwteam.com](#) or email luis@minijcwteam.com

Journalist notes: Media information about MINI and its products is available to journalists on-line at [www.miniusanews.com](#).