

Chevrolet Teams with Iwuji '10 and Former NFL legend Emmitt Smith in NASCAR Xfinity Series



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHEVROLET RACING
LCDR Jesse Iwuji '10, USNR, and Emmitt Smith's team, Jesse Iwuji Motorsports, is driving the Camaro SS this year.

The 2022 NASCAR race season will mark the first time Jesse Iwuji Motorsports, co-owned by driver Lieutenant Commander Jesse Iwuji '10, USNR, and pro football hall of famer Emmitt Smith, will field the No. 34 Empowering People More Chevrolet Camaro SS in the NASCAR Xfinity

Series. Chevrolet will provide engineering support and guidance to Jesse Iwuji Motorsports and assist in developing team members.

"We are excited to have Jesse and Emmitt join our Chevrolet racing family. I respect that Jesse puts effort into continuously improving whatever he does. I grew up watching and cheering the competitive spirit of Emmitt. We will help guide this young team and provide engineering resources to accelerate them along the path to winning races," said Eric Warren, director of NASCAR programs at Chevrolet.

Iwuji currently serves as an officer in the Navy Reserve after serving seven years of active duty. He made five career starts in the NASCAR Xfinity Series in 2020-2021 and 15 starts in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series from 2018-2021.

Iwuji and Smith first met when Smith sponsored a car driven by Iwuji at a race in 2020, and the two established Jesse Iwuji Motorsports in 2021.

"When I decided to pursue a professional racing career, I started getting seat time in my Chevrolet Corvette C6 Z06, which I still own today. The story of going from the Navy to NASCAR and having my Corvette play a key part in that journey makes this partnership not only authentic, but inspirational for any person out there looking to accomplish big goals and dreams. This journey gives people hope and shows how much life truly rewards those who stay strong enough, long enough," said Iwuji. □

2022 Ship Selection

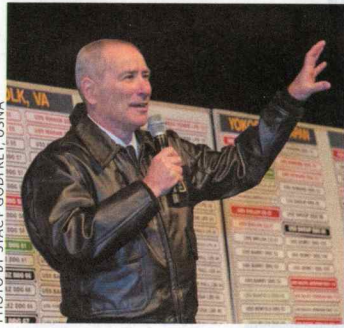


PHOTO BY STACY GODFREY, USNA
VADM Roy Kitchener, USN, commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke to the Naval Academy Class of 2022 midshipmen who will serve as surface warfare officers upon graduation ahead of their annual Ship Selection Night.

Vice Admiral Roy Kitchener, USN, commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke to members of the Naval Academy Class of 2022 before the midshipmen selected their first ship assignment at the Academy's annual Ship Selection Night in Alumni Hall on 3 February. Approximately 280 Class of 2022 midshipmen walked across the Alumni Hall stage to choose from an array of destinations ranging from Japan to Spain and Norfolk, VA.

"Up here is a lot of opportunity and it's yours for the taking," said Kitchener.

Ship selection allows midshipmen assigned to surface warfare to pick the ships they will serve on after commissioning in the spring to start their naval careers. Midshipmen chose their ships and new homeports by order of merit, which factors in considerations such as grades, military grade, physical education and leadership.

Midshipman Matthew Ceh '22 was the first on stage and selected ARLEIGH BURKE, homeported out of Rota, Spain.

"I am really looking forward to working hard and earning the title of surface warfare officer," said Ceh, who studied cyber operations at the Academy.

The 57th pick of the evening went to Midshipman Augustus Prager '22, who selected BLUE RIDGE homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. BLUE RIDGE is the oldest deployed warship in the Navy and serves as the flagship of the Seventh Fleet, the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. Fleets.

"My practicum teacher was super influential on me, and he told me if the ship was up while I was going up to pick, don't miss the opportunity. I can't wait to start actually serving," said Prager. □

Howard '82 Headlines Annual YWCA Luncheon



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY
Admiral Michelle Howard '82's, USN (Ret.), career has seen her become the first woman to command a Navy ship and the first Black woman to achieve the rank of four-star admiral. Now retired, Howard traveled to Spokane, WA, to deliver the keynote address at the annual Young Women's Christian Association's (YWCA) Women of Achievement Luncheon on 24 March. The event highlighted six women who shine in their respective fields and serve Spokane, WA.

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"What a wonderful way today to celebrate Women's History Month, these leaders and to celebrate the fact that we all have our own match. We just have to have the courage to use it," said Howard, in reference to her mother's advice to "start with a single match" to encourage change in the world. □

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