

TROT: What about other drivers from the regionals? Have they been pretty good about you guys winning and moving on?

JAMES MACDONALD: Lots of trash talk in Ontario. Not one of these guys is a good loser (laughing).

TROT: To wrap up, getting back to strategy for this year's NDC... any final thoughts?

BRANDON CAMPBELL: Going into the

first one I was in, I was so excited. The second one, I was going into it trying to stay relaxed and have a good time and it was a good day for me. But Jody not being in it [this year], I swear to God, that changes it. Massive, massive difference. I don't know what it was, you put him away a million times in these events and he just keeps coming.

JAMES MACDONALD: If you watch the Ontario regionals [from this year], he was a non-factor all day and then come the last leg, he just missed.

TROT: Will you be more aggressive than on a usual racecard?

BRANDON CAMPBELL: Each race you've got to pick a different way to go about it. You can't think you're doing the same thing all day. There's guys who have leavers or horses who will leave, and they'll be going hard at it. It's going to be set up for the back horses a few times too, I think.

JAMES MACDONALD: I'm not giving away my strategy (laughing).

TROT: Does any of this make anybody nervous?

COREY MACPHERSON: Honestly, I think driving at regionals made me more nervous than the Canadian one because everybody's going in the same for the national one. The regional one, we know everyone and the horses, and it's at your home track. I think that made me more nervous than this one will.

JAMES MACDONALD: I'm nervous about 11 horse fields. The regionals and nationals will be fine, we know each other, I know everyone pretty well. Whoever makes the worlds, 11 horses with guys you don't know how they drive, that's a different story.

COREY MACPHERSON: I talked to Gilles Barrieau, he's been there a few times. I asked him about different styles overseas. He was completely lost, he couldn't get it at all. If he can admit that, anyone can.

BRANDON CAMPBELL: This is my third time and I don't know if I'm going to get another chance. I'm here to win.

*TROT Magazine would like to thank all of the drivers for taking part in this group interview, and would like to wish everyone the best of luck in this year's National Driving Championship! **T***

JIM MARINO



(ALESHIA SHAW PHOTO)