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Patrick Dempsey to race at Long Beach... but not in the Toyota Pro/Celebrity Race

by Frank Filipponio (RSS feed) on Apr 2nd 2010 at 8:30AM

Actor [Patrick Dempsey](#) is no stranger to racetracks, nor to the pages of Autoblog. We've run into the *Gray's Anatomy* star at various races and automotive events over the past few years, [most recently](#) piloting a '90s [Mazda RX-792](#) LeMans racer in the [Historics](#) at Laguna Seca. We've even seen him run at Long Beach, although that was in their annual [Toyota Pro/Celebrity race](#) that usually features as many crashes and spins as a roller-derby match.



This year, Dempsey is set to return to the streets of Long Beach, but not in a [Scion tC](#), nor even his usual ride, the [Mazda RX-8](#) he runs in the Rolex [Grand-Am](#) GT series. No, Patrick will instead be driving the wheels off a 2010 [Mazda3](#) prepared by Tri-Point Motorsports for the World Challenge race during the [Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach](#) weekend. So what was it like going from a push-me to a pull-me? Dempsey says he was impressed with the Mazda3, the first front-driver he's ever raced, though not surprised, as his daily driver is a [Mazdaspeed3](#).

We'll be sure to keep an eye out for him when we head to Long Beach in a couple of weeks to cover the racing activities, which will include [IndyCar](#), [World Challenge](#) and [ALMS](#) action. There's a longer press release from Mazda [after the jump](#), with more details about the weekend of racing from Long Beach.

[Source: Mazda]

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