

**OWNER**

Gil de Ferran

**GENERAL MANAGER**

John Anderson

**DRIVERS**Gil de Ferran, Ft. Lauderdale, FL,  
TBA

Gil de Ferran (second from right), stands with Acura Motorsports executives, Erik Berkman (left), Robert Clarke and American Le Mans Series President and CEO Scott Atherton (right) following the announcement of de Ferran Motorsports' entry into the 2008 American Le Mans Series.

Over four years ago, Gil de Ferran exited the cockpit of his Penske Racing open-wheel machine for the last time. The popular Brazilian stood in Victory Lane at Texas Motor Speedway, then walked away as a driver.

Now, after serving as television commentator and Sporting Director for the Honda Formula One team, de Ferran has decided to end his racing retirement in 2008.

The man who recorded the fastest closed-course lap speed in history (241.428 m.p.h. at California Speedway in 2001) comes back to the driver's seat for many reasons. The first is his desire to drive competitively again, and the second is to do so in his own organization.

The 2003 Indy 500 winner and two-time CART champion (2000 and 2001) has driven for some of the most legendary drivers and team owners in motorsports history, including Jackie Stewart, Jim Hall and Roger Penske. So, de Ferran knows what it takes to produce a winning operation. In 2008, de Ferran Motorsports was created and the new team campaigns in the very competitive American Le Mans Series with the new Acura ARX-01b chassis and the updated 3.4-liter, normally-aspirated Acura V-8 engine created at Honda Performance Development (HPD) in California.

Back in the driver's seat in 2008, de Ferran makes his debut as a sports-car racer after spending his entire driving career in open-wheeled cars. Even so, the sports-car success of other open-wheel drivers like Bryan Herta, David Brabham, Stefan Johansson and Adrian Fernandez has given de Ferran a positive outlook on his new Acura prototype effort.

De Ferran began the organizational chart of his team with a solid pick to run his operation, as veteran racing executive John Anderson was named General Manager of de Ferran Motorsports. Anderson and de Ferran have established the team's headquarters in the Indianapolis area.

Although de Ferran Motorsports will not begin 2008 American Le Mans Series competition at Sebring, the team will be an LMP2 class regular by mid-season. De Ferran does not believe his operation will find the LMP2 Winner's Circle instantly against the competitive Acuras from Andretti Green, Fernandez and Highcroft Racing, as well as the Porsches from Penske and Dyson. However, don't count out the de Ferran team as a contender by season's end.

## G I L D E F E R R A N



Full Name:	Gil de Ferran
Birthdate:	November 11, 1967
Birthplace:	Paris, France
Residence:	Fort Lauderdale, FL
Spouse:	Angela
Children:	Anna, Luke

**Personal:**

Returns to the cockpit for the first time since October, 2003 when he won the IndyCar season finale at Texas... co-driver and team owner of the Acura ARX-01b in the American Le Mans Series... served as Sporting Director for the BAR Honda Formula One team from 2005 to 2007... won the 2003 Indy 500, driving for Team Penske... won the 2000 and 2001 CART Champ Car World Series driving championship... born to Brazilian parents in Paris, as his father was a mechanical engineer for Willys of Brazil... grew up in Sao Paulo, Brazil... inspired by the success of fellow Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi, began racing at age 14 in a go-kart... attended Mauá Engineering Institute for three years... after attending college, moved to England to race professionally in 1988... captured the British Formula Three Championship in 1992, winning seven races... drove for Paul Stewart Racing's Formula 3000 team in 1993 and 1994... moved to the United States in 1995 to drive Jim Hall's open-wheeled car in the CART Champ Car World Series.

**Career Highlights:**

- Debuts the De Ferran Acura ARX-01b sports car in the LMP2 class in the American Le Mans Series in 2008
- Returns to driving a race car for the first time since announcing his retirement after winning his final race, at Texas Motor Speedway in October, 2003
- Finished second in the 2003 IRL IndyCar Series driving championship for Team Penske
- Won the 2003 Indianapolis 500
- Won five races in his two full seasons in IRL IndyCar Series
- Finished second to teammate Helio Castroneves in the 2001 Indy 500
- Captured the 2000 and 2001 CART Champ Car World Series driving championships
- Recorded the fastest official closed-course qualifying lap in U.S. racing history with a speed of 241.428 m.p.h. at California Speedway in 2001
- In seven years in Champ Car, drove to seven wins, including Team Penske's 100th career open-wheel win at Nazareth, PA, in 2001
- His analytical approach has earned him comparisons to Mark Donohue, Penske's first Indy 500 winner
- Finished second to Alex Zanardi in the 1997 Champ Car driving championship
- Named Champ Car Rookie of the Year in 1995 and won the final race of the season at Monterey, Calif., driving for racing legend Jim Hall
- Drove for Paul Stewart Racing in Formula 3000 in Europe