

## **Media Information**

Subaru Of America, Inc. One Subaru Drive Camden, NJ 08103 Main Number: 856-488-8500

CONTACT: Rob Weir

856-488-3453 rwei@subaru.com Dominick Infante (856) 488-8615 dinfante@subaru.com

## TRAVIS PASTRANA FINISHES 2Nd IN HIS RETURN TO SUBARU RALLY TEAM USA AT RALLY IN THE 100 ACRE WOOD

Action sports superstar <u>Travis Pastrana</u> made a triumphant return to rally racing with a second overall finish at the 2014 Rally in the 100 Acre Wood. After nearly three years away from the sport, Pastrana, a former four-time Rally America Champion, has returned to his Subaru team for 2014.

"It's great to be back! We really enjoyed ourselves and to finish second overall is more than we could have hoped for, "explained Pastrana. "We started off pretty conservative and I'm definitely still getting used to the limits of the new Subaru, which is an incredible machine. Chrissie and I worked great together and we were getting faster and faster with each stage, gaining confidence. We will need a few rallies to get up to our real pace but it felt great to be right there battling the top guys in our first event back."

Pastrana began The Rally in the 100 Acre Wood with conservative ambitions, aiming to log miles and get back up to speed safely. He would need to acclimate to his new co-driver, veteran co-driver Chrissie Beavis, and a new 2014 Subaru STI rally car that is substantially faster than the Subaru he drove for the team nearly three years ago. In addition to those challenges a dislocated ankle and a still healing broken leg hobbled Pastrana throughout the weekend. Pastrana was up to the challenge and drove trouble-free while increasing his pace with each stage. He leapfrogged the leaderboard as Higgins and key rival Antoine L'Estage were forced to withdraw late in the event. Battling competitors from Ford, Mitsubishi, and Scion, six of the top ten cars were a Subaru WRX STI.

Named after the storybook home of Winnie the Pooh, The Rally in the 100 Acre Wood is set in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains of Missouri. Representing round two of the eightevent Rally America Championship, the event features very high-speeds on smooth and flowing gravel roads that are a favorite of many rally drivers.

Pastrana's Subaru Rally Team USA teammate <u>David Higgins</u> withdrew from the event on the second day while battling for the lead due to a mechanical issue. As a result Higgins' incredible string of 19 straight Rally America podium finishes, stretching back nearly three full seasons, was snapped. As a consolation the streak continues on for Subaru Rally Team USA as a result of the podium finish Pastrana earned.

The Rally in the 100 Acre Wood marked the first time that Higgins and Pastrana have worked together on the same team. Higgins and Pastrana have dominated Rallying in the USA over the past decade, without ever having competed full time with or against each other. Higgins has won five Rally America Championships since 2002, including the

last three in a row (2002-2003, 2010-2013), while Pastrana won four championships in a row from 2006-2010.

Subaru Rally Team USA has a short break before the next event; the Oregon Trail Rally held May 2-4 near Portland, OR.

## **About Subaru Rally Team USA**

Subaru Rally Team USA is managed by Vermont SportsCar and proudly supported by Subaru of America, Inc., Subaru Tecnica International (STI), Method Race Wheels, RECARO, PIAA, Race Proven, and MOTUL.

## About Subaru of America, Inc.

Subaru of America, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan. Headquartered in Cherry Hill, N.J., the company markets and distributes Subaru Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive vehicles, parts and accessories through a network of more than 600 dealers across the United States. All Subaru products are manufactured in zero-landfill production plants and Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc. is the only U.S. automobile production plant to be designated a backyard wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. For additional information visit www.subaru.com.

-###-

Additional information and news from Subaru is available at <a href="http://www.media.subaru.com">http://www.media.subaru.com</a>.

Rob Weir Motorsports Manager Subaru of America, Inc. (856) 488-3453 rwei@subaru.com

Dominick Infante
National Manager, Product Communications
Subaru of America, Inc.
(856) 488-8615
dinfante@subaru.com