

START YOUR ENGINES

The Las Vegas Motor Speedway (LVMS) has been on the fast track all summer long — not with racing thrills, but with track and infield renovations that will rev the motors of fans and racers alike when the track reopens September 23, 2006. Additional renovations will be done in time for the NASCAR Weekend in March 2007.

Improvements include construction of new fan-friendly Neon Garage, relocation of the pit road closer to the grandstands, a state-of-the-art media center, and a change from 12- to 20-degree banking on the 1.5-mile-long superspeedway itself. The new track design will offer more side-by-side racing, making it one of the most competitive tracks on the circuit. Experts are comparing it to the Homestead track in Florida and are predicting many LVMS track records will be broken.

Las Vegas Paving Corporation was involved in the original construction of the racing track in 1996. Now, ten years later, they are handling the tear out and paving for these most recent upgrades.

“We rotomilled the asphalt down to the base and used the chips in the parking area,” says Joe Chapman, project superintendent. “Then we went up 10 feet, built the new wall, and did the track surface. I was there when we built it in 1996 and it was challenging then using stakes and lasers. Ten years later, new technologies like the robotic GPS-based system for our blades and paver were a great help this time, but it was still a challenge.”

Part of the equipment mix used by Las Vegas Paving was three Kawasaki wheel loaders. A 65ZV was used in the narrow area between the crash wall and bleachers for excavation work and to

place gravel. An 80ZV was used for grading and all kinds of jobs. And a 95ZV loaded trucks that backed up the steep slope at a 90-degree angle, then deposited material on the new track.

On August 8th, Kurt Busch, NASCAR's 2004 Nextel Cup Series champion, became the first driver to turn laps on the new pavement and high-banked turns. “Everything about it is right — the transitions into the corners, the new banking, the speed that it's going to generate.”

“Las Vegas is all about glitz and glamour,” said Speedway Motorsports Chairman Bruton Smith. “This speedway will be as spectacular as anything on the Las Vegas Strip when we are finished.”

Las Vegas Paving Corporation is serviced by APCO Equipment, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

