

MAZDASPEED[®] HISTORY

MAZDASPEED[®] was originally established in 1967 under the team name “Mazda Sports Corner” at Mazda Auto Tokyo, Japan’s largest Mazda dealer. The aim of the team was to establish a Mazda presence at major motorsports events worldwide, which they did.

Over the next 15 years the team of hardcore Mazda racers campaigned almost every Mazda model, from the famed Cosmo 110S sports cars to RX-7s, at every road racing circuit from Japan to the U.S.

In 1983, Mazda Motor Corporation brought the *MAZDASPEED* team from Tokyo to the company’s corporate headquarters in Hiroshima to help drive Mazda’s factory racing ambitions.

Now under the Mazda umbrella, *MAZDASPEED* continued to receive recognition for its amazing on-track performance and its many victories around the globe. And then in 1991, the *MAZDASPEED* team succeeded in doing what no other Japanese auto maker before or since has been able to accomplish: capturing the overall win at the world’s most prestigious endurance race, Le Mans.

Following the 1991 Le Mans race, the FIA outlawed rotary engines, and Mazda was forced to enter its first piston engine for 1992. Even so, Mazda still scored an impressive fourth place finish, despite the team having to develop the sports racer in an incredibly short time.

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Due in part to not being able to race Mazda’s trademark rotary engine, *MAZDASPEED* chose to discontinue its Le Mans program after the 1992 campaign.

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MAZDASPEED began focusing more on the business side of motorsports and started developing and building aftermarket parts and accessories, while continuing grassroots motorsports initiatives.

In 1999, Mazda Motor Corporation took full control of *MAZDASPEED*. Today, *MAZDASPEED* is brought to North America with the 2003 *MAZDASPEED* Protégé, which will go on sale in North America in the fourth quarter of 2002.

Mazda North American Operations is responsible for the sales and marketing, customer parts and service support of Mazda vehicles in the United States. Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., MNAO has more than 700 dealerships nationwide.

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