



DRIVE+ DETERMINATION

In front of a crowd of 125,000 screaming fans, Shea Holbrook accelerated, steered and sped her way to victory at the Long Beach Grand Prix in 2010. She became only the third female in history to earn a first-place finish at the historic track, following Danica Patrick and Simona de Silvestro.

Since her racing career began five years ago, the 21-year-old has climbed the racing ladder much the way she zooms around the track—with lightning-like speed. In 2010, she made her pro racing debut as part of the Pirelli World Challenge Touring Car division. This division, which is sanctioned by the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), has allowed Shea to race on road courses in New York, Ohio, Georgia and Canada.

"We race what the typical American drives — Honda, Volkswagen, Mazda, and Acura," said Holbrook, a 2008 graduate of Montverde Academy. "Basically, we strip a showroom car and turn it into a race car."

Strikingly beautiful and articulate, Holbrook could easily have been a model or beauty pageant winner. But her need for speed instead led to her to a career in the fast lane. Ultimately, she hopes to become a driver in the Indy Racing League, which would allow her to race on both oval and road courses.

For Holbrook, there's more to racing than reaching Victory Lane. While at the track, she helps raise money for Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, an organization that funds research to combat Duchenne muscular dystrophy. This fatal genetic disorder killed Holbrook's cousin, Matthew Klapp, in 2008.

—James Combs



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