Advanced Cabled Camera System Returns for High Speed View Over Pit Road

New York – Since 2001, FOX Sports has won 15 Emmy Awards for its NASCAR coverage, 10 specifically for technical achievement, but once Speedweeks 2013 coverage is over, it may have to make room for more statuettes in the trophy case.

As Speedweeks coverage begins this weekend, FOX Sports and SPEED are excited to announce plans to showcase exciting, never-before-seen looks of racing at Daytona International Speedway and the Great American Race, courtesy of newly deployed technologies. Coverage this year includes a collection of new cameras and graphics that are expected to add a dynamic new dimension to the viewing experience, including in-car Gyro-Cams, the FOX Super Zoom 4K camera, virtual 3D graphics and the return of a suspended cable camera over the length of pit road.

Gyro-Cam: Gyro-Cam is a gyro stabilized, in-car camera mounted in the center of the cockpit that rotates as cars enter DIS’s extreme 31-degree banked turns, keeping its view level with the horizon at all times. The resulting look demonstrates to viewers just how dramatic Daytona’s turn angles are at race speed. Click here to see a simulation of Gyro-Cam in action.

FOX Super Zoom 4K: Introduced last year during FOX Sports’ coverage of MLB and the NFL, the 4K “Super Zoom” camera produces pictures with five times the resolution of normal HD cameras and captures the action at 300 frames per second. The resulting detail is remarkable and can zoom into an area of interest during the race with incredible detail.

VIZ-RT Encoded Camera: The VIZ-RT encoded camera graphically places three-dimensional virtual objects on screen. These graphics include delineating the “restart box,” where cars can accelerate toward the start/finish line during a restart and highlighting the entire track in yellow to emphasize that a race is under caution.

CAMCAT: Supported by two gigantic cranes outside the track, CAMCAT is an advanced, two-point flying camera system developed in Austria that skies over the tri-oval along pit road. Previously used to cover F1 and certain Olympic events, the camera is suspended at a maximum 140 feet in the air and dips to 45 feet above the track at its midpoint. The cameras can speed up to 85 miles per hour along a 2,900 foot long cable to offer never-before-seen shots of Daytona. FOX first employed a four point cabled camera system over pit road from 2005 to 2007. All the cables were suspended within the track, and the camera traveled at 15 to 20 miles per hour 30 feet above ground.

- more -
FOX Sports Media Group’s new arsenal of enhancements is available and ready for coverage of Daytona Speedweeks this weekend. On Saturday, Feb. 16 (8:00 PM ET), FOX Sports presents LIVE and exclusive coverage of the SPRINT UNLIMITED followed by Daytona 500 qualifying airing Sunday, Feb. 17 (1:00 PM ET). SPEED has over 100 hours of programming from Daytona International Speedway including LIVE coverage of the BUDWEISER DUEL on Thursday, Feb. 21 (2:00 PM – 5:30 PM) where drivers battle for the final spots on the Daytona 500 starting grid and the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series season opener on Friday, Feb. 22 (7:00 PM ET).

-- FOX SPORTS MEDIA GROUP --