

Chevy Expects Unmatched Performance Cars

Chevrolet will introduce the 2015 Corvette Z06 next month at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

It will be the most track-capable Corvette ever, designed to deliver supercar levels of performance through unique powertrain, chassis and aerodynamic features, said GM spokesman Monte Doran.

The Corvette Z06 will complete Chevrolet's performance car lineup, which will also see the addition of the Corvette Stingray Convertible, Camaro Z/28 and SS sedan, Doran said.

"Chevrolet is America's favorite performance car brand, and for 2014 we are going to offer enthusiasts more choices than ever before," said Alan Batey, senior vice president, Global Chevrolet. "No other manufacturer will be able to match the breadth of performance cars from Chevrolet."

For the first 11 months of 2013, Chevrolet has accounted for about 25 percent of all performance car sales in the U.S., as Corvette and Camaro continue to lead their respective segments, Doran said.

Corvette outsold its closest competitor, the Porsche 911, for the first 11 months of 2013. This is all the more remarkable, said Doran, given Corvette production was halted for six months as the Bowling Green, Ky., assembly plant prepared to build the 2014 Corvette Stingray.

In November, Corvette sales jumped 229 percent year-over-year, as demand for the new Stingray continues to outstrip supply.

And, Doran said, the Camaro also outsold its closest competitor, the Ford Mustang, for the first 11 months of 2013. Camaro enters December with a 4,093-unit lead in total sales.

More importantly, Doran said, Camaro has an estimated 10,000-unit lead in retail sales. If that lead continues through the end of the year, 2013 will be the fourth consecutive year Camaro has been the best-selling sports car in the U.S.

The sales lead for Chevrolet,

World's First Mustang Buyer Remembers

(AP) - Gail Wise didn't know she was getting anything special when she drove away from a Chicago Ford dealership in the spring of 1964 in the first Mustang ever sold.

Wise paid \$3,347 for the car, happy to have a convertible. It wasn't until she was on the road, with other drivers honking and flagging her down, that she realized what she had.

"I felt like a movie star," she said.

Fifty years and 9 million Mustang sales later, Wise was on hand at Ford headquarters Dec. 5 to celebrate the unveiling of the 2015 version of the pony car. With her was the original Mustang convertible, which still sits in her suburban Chicago garage.

Wise was 22 and freshly out of Chicago Teachers College when she decided to buy a car to commute to her new job as a third grade teacher. She went to Johnson Ford and asked for a convertible, since her family already owned two other Ford convertibles.

The manager didn't have any on the floor, but took her into a back room and pulled a tarp off the new Mustang. It was April 15 - two days before the car was officially supposed to go on sale - but he offered it to her anyway.

"It was sporty. It was perfect. It went zoom zoom," she said. She got \$400 for a 1958 Chevrolet she traded in.

Doran said, is expected to accelerate as the brand adds four new performance cars to the lineup next year.

In 2014, Doran said, GM will see:

- The first full calendar year of sales of the 2014 Chevrolet SS sedan. The all-new SS, which went on sale in October, is based on a race-proven, global platform that underpins the Camaro, Caprice police vehicle and, in Australia, the high-performance Holden VF Commodore.

Elements including lightweight aluminum hood and deck lid panels help give the SS a nearly 50/50 weight balance, while the performance of its 6.2L V8 - rated at 415 horsepower - and six-speed automatic transmission enable 0-60 mph acceleration in five seconds flat.

- The first full year of sales of

the 2014 Corvette Stingray Convertible. The Stingray Convertible, which goes on sale this month, shares identical chassis tuning and performance technologies with the coupe, with structural changes limited to accommodations for the folding top and repositioned safety belt mounts.

- The arrival of the 2014 Camaro Z/28, which arrives in dealerships in the second quarter of 2014. Doran said it will be the most track-capable Camaro ever. Recently, the Z/28 logged a 7:37.40 lap on Germany's Nürburgring road course, a time comparable with some of the world's most prestigious sports cars - and the Z/28 lap was completed in the rain.

- The debut of the 2015 Corvette Z06. Production is expected to begin in late 2014.

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