

Ridgeline Off-Road Racing racks up wins

The first-generation Honda Ridgeline was raced in a Stock Mini Truck class by the California Race and Rally team with success in 2008-10. The current racing program with Jeff Proctor's Honda Off-Road Racing Team began in 2015, originally in Class 2 for "Limited 4-wheel, two-seat open wheel vehicles with 3.5-liter forced air induction engine, maximum 105 inch wheelbase and minimum weight of 2000 pounds." The team and truck later moved to Class 7 for "Unlimited V6 race trucks," where it competes very successfully in both SCORE and other off-road racing events. The Honda Ridgeline Baja Race Truck features Honda Performance Development's 3.5-liter HR35TT V6 with the same block and cylinder heads as a production Honda Ridgeline, tweaked to 550 hp. Additional custom powertrain elements include an HPD-designed intake plenum and custom ECU programming.

Honda Ridgeline SCORE Baja wins

2008....Baja 1000.....Stock Mini Class winner
 2010....Baja 1000.....Stock Mini Class winner
 2015....Baja 1000.....Class 7 winner
 2016....Baja 500.....Class 7 winner
 2016....Baja 1000.....Class 7 winner
 2018....Baja 500.....Class 7 winner
 2019....Baja 500.....Class 7 winner
 2020....Baja 500.....Class 7 winner
 2021....San Felipe 250.....Class 7 winner
 2021....Baja 500.....Class 7 winner

Recent SCORE Baja wins (2020-2021):

Baja 500 : September 2020

Following pandemic delays and an August Vegas to Reno run, the team resumed its string of Baja 500 successes last September with a Class 7 victory at the Baja 500.

San Felipe 250 : April 2021

Driver Jeff Proctor and navigator Evan Weller built an early lead along the rough 280-mile loop course starting and ending at the Gulf of California town of San Felipe. Despite two stops to replace cut tires, sand washes, ruts and jumps, they built a 35-mile lead with 20 miles remaining, cruising to the team's first SCORE win of 2021, and the sixth Class 7 Ridgeline victory in Baja.

Baja 500 : June 2021

The team continued its string of SCORE Baja Class 7 successes with a victory in June in this year's 25th running of the Baja 500, in a field of 243 entries—their fourth

consecutive class win in this event in the Ridgeline Baja Race Truck, and the fifth for the Honda Ridgeline overall in the last six years. Owner/driver Jeff Proctor and Pat Dailey conquered a single-loop course of 466 miles, starting and ending in the Pacific Coast town of Ensenada.

Additional Honda Ridgeline US wins

2018.....Vegas to Reno.....Class winner
 2019.....Parker 425.....Class winner
 2019.....Mint 400.....Class winner

Recent US podium finishes (2020-2021):

Mint 400 : March 2020

First run in 1968, the Mint 400 is the oldest off-road race in the US and one of the toughest. As pandemic lockdowns loomed last year, organizers moved Class 7 entries, including the Ridgeline Baja Race Truck, from Limited to the Unlimited category, now just behind bigger, heavier, higher horsepower Unlimited trucks at the start—Class 1 purpose-built racers with larger tires, creating massive dust, enlarging holes and exposing rocks. The team's strategy—to preserve equipment and tires through the grueling event—paid off with a solid lead for two-thirds of the race, till suspension damage in the third lap. Reducing speed to ensure a finish, the team placed second.

Vegas to Reno : August 2020

After a five-month pandemic delay, the Honda Off-Road Racing Team resumed its 2020 season with a second place finish in the "7200" class for unlimited V6-powered trucks in the General Tire Casey Folks Vegas to Reno off-road race. ■

