



what we did in the WRC the year before, except that we've had success. It feels good to have such a good season after having so many rough seasons prior to that.

What do you attribute to your success this year?

I think in other years I've been just happy to be there and happy to be participating, but this year I was pretty hungry. I set out a goal for myself, and that was I wanted to be viewed as the top North American rally driver. Personally, I wanted to drive against all the top North American drivers. From a driving perspective I've taken every rally as it comes, not thinking about the whole year too much because sometimes you can get stressed out about trying to get points or trying to beat this guy or that guy. We just start every rally realizing that you don't have to win every stage to win the event and we've driven accordingly and pushed when we've had to. I think my driving has matured over 2003. From a monetary perspective it's just a question of trying not to overdrive the car because we're on a budget and I think that helps too. It made it last a lot longer.

So, do you think you've met your goal then?

Well, I think that I can confidently say with a straight face that we've beaten every North American driver. Whether I'm viewed by others as the top North American driver, that's up to them. I'm not afraid to say that I'd be willing to go up against any North American driver in equal machinery and try to duke it out on the stages. And I mean, I'm not trying to be conceited or anything. We might not win; we haven't won every rally this year.

So what's the next goal? Any chance of a return to WRC?

Well, yeah. Right now I'm working hard to try and get a program together for next year that might include some international rallies. I'd like to do some more WRC events. I definitely think we deserve to be in the WRC and North American drivers are just as good as some of the other drivers. Because of the nature of our sport we don't have the resources available to the drivers and teams to participate at the top level, but I think if we had a decent car and a decent program we could do well at any event. It doesn't have to be a whole series but just a few events here and there to get our foot in the door. So, I'm always trying to do that and I've also opened up a rally shop here in Squamish. There's no shop in Western Canada that's focused on rallying and I really wanted to have a shop where we could help people prepare their cars and get things together. I'm also going to try and organize a couple rallies in the next couple years to help bring more people into the sport.

Looking back at your 2003 season on the PWRC, is there anything you wish you had done differently?

It's really hard to go over everything that happened, but to be honest it was just a case of budget. If I was to do it over again I probably would've bailed on the season because we ended up having so much troubles that we dug a deeper hole for ourselves budget-wise. But, if I had bailed on the season I would have been sanctioned by the FIA and lost my license, so I don't think there was much I could have done differently aside from try and get more sponsorship sooner. It's a lot more expensive than you think it is.

You've been a Subaru driver pretty much your whole career except for some Peugeot Cup stuff. If the opportunity came up, would you drive something different?

Yeah, I've been offered the opportunity to drive other cars many times. For me, Subaru has been involved in rallying much longer than I have and they've always been supportive of the sport. For me to want to switch to another manufacturer I'd have to be sure it would be with someone I could partner with for the long term because I'd like to be in this sport for a long time. Subaru's always been good to me, but I've had no hesitation in testing other cars and I've driven many other rally cars just none for a whole championship or that have been written about! But yeah, next year I think we might see some new manufacturers come into the American championship and maybe in Canada as well. As a driver I'm always looking to further my career so anything is possible, but Subaru has been pretty good to me for so long.

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Photo by Warwick Patterson