

Tony "a2z" Adamowicz only needed one car to win the 1969 Formula Continental Championship—AAR Eagle MkV chassis 510. The car and driver combination contested all 13 rounds of the 1969 series, scoring two wins (at Elkhart Lake and Seattle), two seconds, and three thirds along the way. Following the final round of the championship, the car was retired.

Adamowicz explains the decision. "With all the new chassis that were coming out—Lotus, Surtees, Lola and McLaren—all these with very, very good drivers, we determined that this car wouldn't have been competitive against these newer cars. It went through a complete season, was never crashed and we decided to retire the car."

Adamowicz, however, was far from retirement and went on to take second at the 1971 24 Hours of Daytona with Ronnie Bucknum in a Ferrari 512 and then a third at Le Mans later that year driving another 512 with Sam Posey.

Eagle #510 is now owned by Doug Magnon, the man behind the Riverside International Automotive Museum (riversideinternationalraceway.com). The 2008 Wine Country Classic was the first time the car had seen competition since its final race on December 28, 1969, at Sebring. Once again, Adamowicz was behind the wheel.

"It is definitely a thrill [to be back in the car]," says Adamowicz. "This is not a Sunday driver. This is a car that you really have to keep on top of and, as a result, you may not be quite as fast as you were in 1969. But being nearly 40 years older, it's understandable. There is some race feel back, transmitted from the memory and it's sort of jogging out all the cobwebs."

Celebrated crew chief Carroll Smith dialed in the Eagle back in the day when it was the Milestone Racing entry of Marvin Davidson, one of eight Eagle MkVs built in 1969.

You can learn more about Adamowicz and the Eagle on Adamowicz's website, a2zracer.com. 🍀

