



# national sprint car hall of fame



## guy Forbrook



PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL ARCH

by Bob Jones

**G**uy Forbrook was born on August 20, 1962, into a racing family. His father Dick was a very successful driver whose own career was finishing just as Guy was coming of age. Guy wheeled a Sprint Car to over a dozen victories in 1984-85 at various tracks including Jackson, Minnesota, Rock Rapids, Iowa, Fairmont, Minnesota, and even five in a row at Huset's Speedway in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Guy was quickly making a name for himself in the racing community.

A passenger car accident would forever change the path Guy would take in racing. The accident caused a significant spinal cord injury and led to life in a wheelchair. Following the accident, Forbrook stayed away from racing for over a year when Ron Kohls "dragged him out of the house" and convinced Guy to come to a Sprint Car race. Kohls and Forbrook would soon put together their own team and the Forbrook 5 was born.

Danny Lasoski is quick to point out that Guy's injury didn't slow him down. "Honestly, I don't even look at Guy as being disabled at all, and I mean that with all due respect. That guy can do anything he wants to. He's so hard-headed that he doesn't allow the wheelchair to get in the way of working on these cars, getting up and down the road, or anything else he does. And nobody works harder than Guy. If he wants to do something, he just figures out how to make it happen," said Lasoski.

The 1988 season was the start of a long and successful career as a mechanic, crew chief and car owner. Jerry Richert, Jr. began the season with three victories before Danny Lasoski took over driving duties, forming a partnership that would forever change the landscape of Sprint Car racing in the Midwest. Lasoski and Forbrook won an astonishing 54 races in just their first two years together, including track championships at both Knoxville and Huset's, and had victories against the World of Outlaws and All Star Circuit of Champions.

"When I look back at the years with Danny, the more we raced the better we got. Danny is such a finesse driver that he can win anywhere, anytime. I believe he is one of the top-five ever to drive these cars - he's that good. We had a strong team with good equipment, but we won

all those races because of his ability. And we survived those early years because he took care of our stuff and didn't crash. As much as we raced, if he tore up a bunch of stuff we never could have made it," said Forbrook.

In 1991, there was the first split of the Lasoski/ Forbrook combination when Guy hired Jac Haudenschild to pilot the now famous Forbrook 5. Haudenschild went on to win 14 times on the way to Forbrook's third Knoxville Raceway track championship. The 1992-93 seasons saw Lasoski back behind the wheel for another two dominating years. The duo combined for 47 more victories, two Knoxville Raceway track championships, a third Huset's Speedway track championship and wins across the country from California to Ohio.

Despite all their success, the two split again in 1994. Terry McCarl piloted the Forbrook 5 to five wins before Johnny Herrera took over in 1995. Herrera and Forbrook won 25 features on the way to Guy's sixth Knoxville title.

Lasoski was once again back in 1996 for another 21 feature wins on their way to Forbrook's seventh Knoxville track championship. "Guy and I, we are like brothers. Problem is, we fight like brothers, too. We are at our best when we're together, but we can both be too stubborn for our own good," said Lasoski.

Jac Haudenschild and the World of Outlaws came calling in 1997 in Jack Elden's famous Pennzoil 22. "Racing with Haud was always a lot of fun. You always knew he was going to give you 150% every night. He was always upbeat and had such a good attitude, win or lose. I remember the thing he'd always say when the car wasn't very good, he'd smile and say 'Maybe I just wasn't driving it hard enough.'" Forbrook laughed. "And then we'd move on to the next race. You know, that always made things a little better. Because we both knew the car wasn't good but he'd take the heat."

Forbrook and Haudenschild won six times together before Guy joined forces with Steve Kinser in July of 1998, following Scott Gerkin's

departure as crew chief. "Racing with Steve was probably the easiest job I ever had. They had such a strong team and with Steve driving the way he does, it was a lot of fun. Heck, I could've put the right rear on the left side and Steve would still run in the top-three. He was so good that it was pretty hard to screw that up," Forbrook said. Kinser visited victory lane eight times with Forbrook through the end of the '98 season on their way to the World of Outlaws championship.

The next year found Guy back at Knoxville with McCarl again in the cockpit. They found more success than their previous attempt, scoring 12 victories on their way to Forbrook's eighth Knoxville Raceway track title and his fourth at Huset's Speedway.

Guy teamed up with Jimmy Vassar in 2000 to take on the World of Outlaws with Greg Hodnett behind the wheel of the number V12. Hodnett won twice before an injury sidelined him in April, with Tyler Walker taking over the driving duties to finish the year.

In 2001, Jeff Shepard drove the Forbrook 5 to five World of Outlaws victories before Haudenschild took over in 2002 for three more WoO wins. Following a couple lean years, Sammy Swindell drove the Forbrook 5 in 2005-06 for eight victories together, including three WoO wins at Eldora. "Sammy was the smartest guy I raced with when it came to the cars. Everything was very technical with Sammy and he understood how everything worked: the cars, motors, shocks, fuel systems... everything. It was nice to bounce ideas off Sammy because he could speak the language. And nobody was more driven to succeed. And the bigger and faster the track was, that's where Sammy shined," he said.



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## Guy Forbrook

*continued from page 23.*

In 2008, Lasoski was back and the duo won five more times on their way to Forbrook's ninth Knoxville Raceway championship.

Dennis Roth hired Guy in 2009 with Tim Kaeding piloting the Roth Motorsports 83. They won nine races together.

The next five seasons would find Forbrook working with Erin Crocker, JD Johnson, Mark Dobmeier and Craig Dollansky with some success, but nothing like he was used to.

Both he and Lasoski had experienced some down years leading up to 2015, but their careers were jump started when they once again joined forces. This time it was with owner Tod Quiring. "I always knew that if the right deal came along, we could win a bunch of races again. Tod gave us a chance and that's exactly what we did," he said. They won 13 races on their way to the inaugural National Sprint League championship and Forbrook's 10th Knoxville track championship.

The 2016 season was much of the same as he and Lasoski won their second NSL championship and his 11th Knoxville Raceway track title,

pushing Lasoski and Forbrook's career victory totals to an astonishing 149 victories together.

"When I look back, I can't help but think of the people who made it happen: Ron Kohls, Al Cole, Dan Haaland, and Larson Farms. The long-term partnerships like Jackpot Junction, who supported us from 1991-2006 and Earl Gaerte, who built all my motors from 1988-2008. There were just so many great people behind it all. The most fun I ever had racing were those early years with Ron, Al, Dennis Werner, Melvin Patterson, Dean Brown, Banzai (Dean Bruns), Dave Kinnaird, Jeff Severson ... man, those were the good times. The more we raced, the better we got and we raced a lot. We started a new team and in five years, time had won around 120 races. That's not too bad," he smiled.

Guy Forbrook has put together a very impressive career over the past 30 years. He is best known for his success at Knoxville, including 87 victories and 11 track championships but a quick browse through his career stats finds over 270 feature wins at 63 different race tracks, with drivers such as Steve Kinser, Sammy Swindell, Danny Lasoski, Jac Haudenschild, Terry McCarl, Tim Kaeding, Jeff Shepard... a virtual who's who in racing. An amazing career for an amazing driver, mechanic and car owner.

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### DAVE DARLAND

It has been a privilege to witness some of your many accomplishments as a driver. Running the wall at Eldora, setting track records at Anderson and winning at Winchester, all done with such strength, courage and determination. Your talent and ability are beyond impressive and your kindness, loyalty and humbleness are admirable. Thank you for creating so many memorable moments, and above all thank you for your friendship.

### GUY FORBROOK

Your knowledge and determination throughout the years is impressive. Your unrelenting pursuit to figure things out has led you to become one of the best to 'turn a wrench' on a sprint car. We are beyond grateful for your dedication and for your friendship over the years.