



Fred Brownfield

Sprint car racing was who Fred Brownfield was, almost all the time. When he wasn't racing, he was thinking about racing.

When he wasn't thinking about racing, he was trying to make something about racing even better than it was. For 34 years, racing has been synonymous with Fred Brownfield.

Frederick "Fred" Brownfield, born November 16, 1952, began racing at the Sky Valley Speedway in Monroe, Washington, in 1972. He caught on to the sport quickly, being named Rookie of the Year. When Sky Valley Speedway was shut down in 1977, he moved his racing career to Skagit Speedway, where he spent the rest of his competitive years racing against some of the region's finest. He won four point championships at Skagit (1977, '80, '89, '93), his last being when he retired from competitive driving. He also toured the country with the World of Outlaws (WoO) and other touring series, whenever and wherever he could fit in a race with his yellow-and-black number 92 sprint car and usually with his father on his pit crew.

In 1994, Fred was offered the challenge of running Skagit Speedway. He and his wife, Debbie, took on this new challenge with a desire to make Pacific Northwest racing the best in the area, arguably, the best in the country. He, Debbie, the kids, and all of their extended family made Skagit Speedway one of the best racetracks around for those two years. When Fred's purchase of Skagit Speedway was unsuccessful after the 1995 season, he moved his passion to Grays Harbor Raceway in Elma, Washington. Fred's desire was always to make the racing the best for the drivers, and most of all, the best for the fans. One goal of Fred's was to bring the World of Outlaws back to the Pacific Northwest, where they hadn't been for over 15 years. Debbie and he promoted a very successful

Wild, Wild, Northwest Tour that took the Outlaws through Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, Colorado and Washington. The tour earned Brownfield Promotions the Promoter of the Year honors in 2004 and '05.

In 1996, responding to the need for more racing in the Northwest, Fred created a winged 360-cubic-inch sprint car touring series that toured Oregon, Washington, Montana, and even into Alberta, Canada. The Northern Sprint Tour (NST) gave drivers in the Northwest a competitive series to run, in addition to their weekly shows, which was American Sprint Car Series (ASCS) compatible. Fred Brownfield was named the North American 360 Sprint Car Poll Promoter of the Year in 2001.

In the same year of his NST birth, Fred helped send his nephew, Travis Cram, to Knoxville, Iowa, to pursue his racing dreams. Fred was a very generous man. Other drivers' dreams of racing were Fred's dreams too, and he would do all he could to help drivers in need to achieve those dreams.

Upon the completion of the 2005 season with the World of Outlaws, there was talk of a new touring series for the professional drivers. When the formation of the National Sprint Car League was unsuccessful, the drivers turned to Fred and Debbie Brownfield for help. Knowing that Fred was a supporter of what the drivers wanted, they asked him to head up a new series. With just a little hesitation, Fred and Debbie decided to go forth with this new venture, the National Sprint Tour (NST). A new chapter

in racing filled the lives of the Brownfield family. Most people don't know just how much money it takes to bring a racing series to life from scratch. Fred loved this sport so much and felt so passionately about it that he initially funded this new series himself.

This chapter, however, ended very abruptly and sadly and long before his vision for the National Sprint Tour was realized. Fred Brownfield was killed doing exactly what he loved - promoting a race at Grays Harbor Raceway in Elma, Washington on Friday, June 16, 2006. The owner of the Brownfield Manufacturing

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metal fabrication shop in Snohomish, Washington, was 53 years old and had lived a lifetime of adventures.

Fred Brownfield, who was posthumously named the recipient of the North American Sprint Car Poll "Outstanding Contribution to the Sport Award" in 2006, was survived by his wife, Debbie, mother, Avanelle Powell, and his children: Shelby Nicoletti, Carrie Troy, Jessica Kellogg, Ty Brownfield, and Luke Prigg.

*By Joanne Cram
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