



national sprint car hall of fame



stevie Smith



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by Todd Heintzelman

Pennsylvania native Stevie Smith was born May 26, 1966. Smith, now of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, started racing when he was just a teenager. He won an incredible 222 Sprint Car features throughout the country during his 31-year Sprint Car career. Now 53, Smith retired after the 2016 season, but remains very busy with his business, Smith Titanium, in Broken Arrow.

He followed in his father Steve's footsteps as a youth, racing in Central Pennsylvania, winning races and championships. He got started racing with help from his dad with engines and with a car from Jeff Creasy. They fabricated many of their own parts when he was first getting started. He quickly won four races. Championships came at Lincoln (1986) and Susquehanna Speedway.

From Pennsylvania, he went on the road with the World of Outlaws and scored 84 career wins with the series, which is good enough for ninth all-time. During his tenure on the road, Smith raced against the likes of Steve Kinser, Sammy Swindell, Mark Kinser, Danny Lasoski and Dave Blaney every night. His first Outlaws win came in 1988 at his home track of Lincoln Speedway. He was named the WoO Rookie of the Year in 1990 and finished fifth in points and fourth in points in 1991. His best series points finish was second in 1992 to Steve Kinser. He

was third in 1993 and 1995. He won a series high 13 races in 1998 and finished fourth in points. Smith drove for Pennsylvania car owner Al Hamilton on the road for five seasons, along with the Dan Motter 71M and the Dave Helm 11H. He also drove his own "Black Bandit" number 19. Winning the Gold Cup and the Brad Doty Classic are among other career highlights.

He won 19 races sanctioned by the All Stars and won the Ohio Speedweek Championship in 2012.

Smith made his mark in his home state as well winning all the major races at least one time during his career. He drove for John and PeeWee Zemaitis, Chad and Jenn Clemens and Fred Rahmer. Smith also notably raced for Jack Elden, Bob Vielhauer, Chris Luck, Guy Forbrook and Al Cole.

He won the Williams Grove National Open three times including in 2015 while driving for fellow Hall of Famer Fred Rahmer. His other National Open wins came in 1989 and 1991. "It's amazing," Smith said after winning \$50,000 in the 53rd Annual National Open. "A couple of years ago I pretty much thought I was getting ready to wrap it up and just couldn't get anything going. This all goes to Fred Rahmer and the crew. I'm telling you, they have helped me tremendously. They have given me a really good race car. I just try not to make too many mistakes. They're the reason we're standing here."

He won Port Royal Speedway's Tuscarora 50

two times during his career...1988 and 2011... and the Selinsgrove National Open in 2003 as well. He's also a three-time winner of the Grove's Mitch Smith Memorial.

Smith not only made his mark in the Keystone State, but coast-to-coast. He qualified for the Knoxville Nationals 21 times with a career best finish of second in 1993 - a race he led until a rain delay changed the complexity of the race eventually won by Kinser. At the time, he was driving Hamilton's famous 77. He was third in the 2009 Knoxville Nationals driving for Pennsylvania's John and Pee Wee Zemaitis in their famous Zemco Speed Equipment number 1. Smith raced for them for many seasons with much success.

Overall, Smith scored six top-five finishes in the Knoxville Nationals A-main and he won eight times at Knoxville Raceway.

Smith was also versatile. With no non-wing experience, he drove to a runner-up finish in 2003 at Eldora Speedway in the Eldora Million for the non-wing Sprinters.

During the last part of his career, Smith raced in primarily the higher paying time trial races. The last few seasons of his career were some of his best while driving for Rahmer, where he also landed a Dirt Classic win at Lincoln in 2016 to go with his National Open win. He also dominated Pennsylvania Sprint Car Speedweek in 2015. He won five races en route to the Speedweek championship. He won 15 Speedweek races overall. Also, in 2015, Smith won the WoO Summer Nationals at the Grove. Smith retired prior to 2017 to focus on his growing business, Smith Titanium.