

CHAD KEMENAH

- DRIVER

By Doug Kennedy



Photo: Paul Arch

BORN AND RAISED in Fremont, Ohio, and a current resident of Alvada, Ohio, 51-year-old Chad Kemenah began his racing career humbly in a street stock in 1988. Four years later, he converted to a Sprint Car and ended up doing that for the balance of his career.

Kemenah came from racing roots and his father, Harold, was a great car owner, campaigning the familiar 3X cars that saw drivers like Frank Linder, Jack Hewitt and Kenny Jacobs behind the wheel.

Throughout his Sprint Car career, Kemenah has better than 100 feature wins with six World of Outlaw wins and 35 All-Star Circuit of Champions victories. Six times, he won the All-Star Circuit of Champions title. Kemenah is fourth in the series in A-main starts and third in top-five and podium finishes.

From 2002 through 2005, he was the scourge of sprint car racing around his home state, winning four straight All-Star Circuit championships and four Eldora track championships. During that four year period, Kemenah won 21 features driving the 15k. He also captured a second-place finish at the Knoxville Nationals, a third place at the Kings Royal and two fifth-place finishes at the Knoxville Nationals.

After leaving the All-Star Circuit in 2006 to race with the World of Outlaws, Kemenah experienced a rough transition. Being away from his family for long stretches was a difficult adjustment as

was parting ways with his older brother and chief mechanic Brian Kemenah. Finally, there was a bad accident at Knoxville.

On the positive side, he was named the Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year with the World of Outlaws and, as mentioned, captured six career wins. Following a decade with the WoO Series, Kemenah returned to his familiar stomping grounds of the All-Star circuit.

By 2020, Chad Kemenah had reduced his racing to a handful of events and that is due in a large part to his 16-year-old son, Creed, who is starting to amp up his involvement with being a race car driver. "The more Creed wants to get into racing, the more I slow down to focus on him and his career," said Kemenah.

Creed drove a 305 Sprint last year until the final six races, when he drove a 410. This year, Creed will run a handful of 360 races but the majority of time on the track will be in the family owned 410.

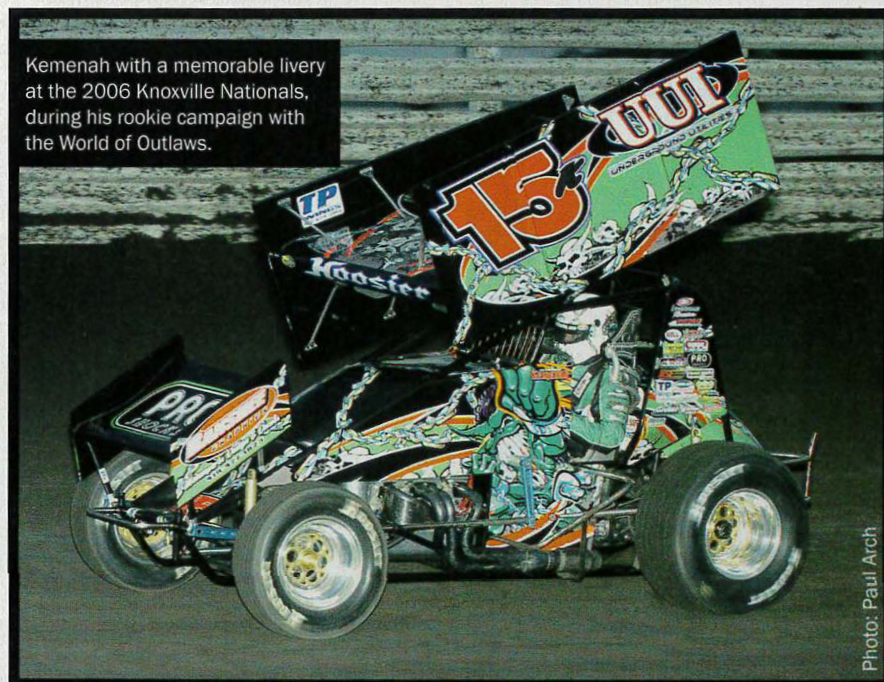
Chad will be the first to admit that his career has slowed down drastically. "Over the last two years, I raced maybe 20 times," said Kemenah. "I'll do some races big races and maybe run some others for other people. We went to Knoxville last year and I plan on doing that again this year, so I'll kick Creed out of the seat for this one."

Chad and his wife, Tracy, also have a 19-year old daughter Mackenzie.

When he's not helping Creed or driving for himself, Kemenah owns a big rig for CK Trucking. He's mostly does local logistics runs in Ohio but does regional travelling to Indiana and Kentucky to name a few. "I could definitely drive this rig seven days a week, but I try to keep things down to five."

Attica Raceway has always been the home track for Chad. The highlight of his career is winning the last WoO race ever at Manzanita Speedway in Phoenix, Arizona in 2008. "That was always a very prestigious Outlaw race." As for his biggest win, Chad said the win he got in an Outlaw race at I-55 in Pevely, Missouri in 2006. "That was my very first World of Outlaws win."

"It probably hasn't sunk in just yet," said Kemenah commenting on his election to the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame. "It's rare company to be a part of it. It's just a great honor. You sometimes wonder if it will ever happen. When I got the call, I'm usually not speechless, but on this one, I was. To be a first ballot Hall of Fame nominee was unreal. I thought honestly that I might be waiting five to ten years. To go in on that first time ballot was incredible." ■



Kemenah with a memorable livery at the 2006 Knoxville Nationals, during his rookie campaign with the World of Outlaws.

Photo: Paul Arch