



# PAUL MCMAHAN - DRIVER

By Ashley Zimmerman

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE** Paul McMahan kicked off his storied racing career at just 16 years old winning his first sprint car feature in 1987. Nearly a decade later, however, things really kicked into high gear in 1995 when he scored the 1995 Calistoga Speedway track championship, winning three of the four races that season by leading 90 straight laps out of 100. Shortly after that season raised his profile, McMahan hit the road and never looked back.

During his time competing in California, McMahan finished as the runner up in the Northern Auto Racing Club standings on two occasions. In 1997, McMahan joined the World of Outlaws for the first time, starting the season with car owner Dennis Roth, and ending the year driving Gary Stanton's 75. Throughout McMahan's time running with the World of Outlaws, he drove for CJB Motorsports, Roth Motorsports, Selma Shell Racing, Tony Stewart Racing, Buch Motorsports and Warren Johnson Racing.

Paul won his first World of Outlaws feature in 2001 at the Missouri State Fair Speedway driving for Warren Johnson. In total, McMahan would visit victory lane with the Outlaws 27 size times, with his three wins at the Dirt Track at Charlotte being the most of any track.

During his time driving for Chad Clemens with CJB Motorsports during 2012, McMahan won the preliminary night to the Morgan Hughes National Open at Williams Grove, in only his third race for the team. In 2014, with the World

Of Outlaws, McMahan won the 26th Brad Doty Classic after a thrilling battle with Sammy Swindell. Paul's final series win came in October 2015 at Lawrenceburg Speedway.

In all, McMahan has 124 career podiums with the World of Outlaws and 82 career quick times. During Paul's tenure with the World of Outlaws, his career highest third in points occurred on two occasions in 2013 and 2014. In 2011, he would set one of many track records at the Belleville High Banks, where he would also go on to win. Also, in 2011 McMahan set the all-time fastest lap with the World of Outlaws at Volusia and, in 2015, he broke his very own record at Rolling Wheels Raceway in New York at 145.527 mph.

Outside of the World of Outlaws, in 2000, McMahan competed with the Gumout Series and finished second in the series point standings. In 1999, Paul hit the road with the All-Star Circuit of Champions, earning Rookie of the Year honors. In his time competing with the All Stars, Paul finished in the top-five in the standings three times, as well as won the 2018 Ohio Speedweek Championship. Paul's last race with the All Stars came in June of 2022 at Atomic Speedway. However, his last visit to victory lane with the series was in June 2021 when McMahan won the Dean Knittel Memorial after taking the lead on the last lap. This would break McMahan's winless streak with his last win coming from the very same event in 2018.

McMahan has raced in three different countries; the United States, Australia, and Canada, and secured wins in every jurisdiction. Most notably, in 2002, he won the Australia vs USA Speedweek championship. McMahan has won the Mini Gold Cup twice in his career, in 1998 and 2013. McMahan has competed in 28 Knoxville Nationals and is ranked seventh on the most feature qualifiers list and is currently tied with Shane Stewart with 20 starts. In 2007, Paul McMahan finished fifth at the Granddaddy of THEM ALL, his highest Knoxville Nationals career finish.

McMahan's consistent streak has also led him to 20 feature starts at the Kings Royal at Eldora Speedway, with his highest finish coming in 2011 where he placed third. In 2009, McMahan would compete with the American Sprint Car Series and earned Rookie of the Year honors and finished fifth in the series point standings. Along side the ASCS, McMahan won the 2002 and 2012 Short Track Nationals at I-30 Speedway.

After 35 years traversing up and down the road, Paul McMahan retired from sprint car racing in 2022, closing out his career where it once began at Placerville Speedway. On August 27, 2022, they hosted Paul's Last Call with family and friends, when he and brother Bobby McMahan would take the green flag one last time together. ■