



Photo by: Paul Arch

TODD SHAFER DRIVER

By Bryan Householder

National Sprint Car Hall of Fame inductee Todd Shaffer of Millerstown, Pa. put together a very remarkable career on the tracks of central Pennsylvania and beyond. In that career, Shaffer won 196 sprint car races and 13 track championships. During that career, his hard-charging style of racing earned Todd the nickname of "Mr. Excitement."

Todd Shaffer (born Nov. 5, 1961) began his career in auto racing at a very young age. He was just six years of age when he began racing karts. Over the course of his time in the karts, Shaffer became a nationally known winner and champion, winning races from the local tracks to some of the most famous tracks in the country.

From there, it was on to full-fledged sprint cars for Shaffer. Starting with the 1985 season, his debut was a little rocky since there were numerous mechanical ills and some crashes in those early years.

Driving his own number 11 racer, it took until Aug. 15, 1987 for Shaffer to claim his first career win. That time came at Port Royal where he would win again on Labor Day of that year. That Labor Day win would be the first of six wins in the historic daylight race at his home track.

From that point on, Shaffer would win in every year of his career, scoring his final

full-fledged sprint car win in 2009. In between the years, there were many, many wins.

Shaffer added Williams Grove in 1988 and Selinsgrove in 1989 to his win list. The Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Motor Speedway and Delaware International Speedway would join the list in 1990.

Along the way, his team picked up support from well-known Pennsylvania backers like Turnbaugh Oil Service and Camel Express Trucking.

Then came the real breakout year of 1991. That year, Shaffer won 22 times. Over half of those wins—13 to be exact—came at Sharon, Ohio where he would claim his first track title. He also won five times at Selinsgrove, twice at Port Royal, and once at both Williams Grove and Hagerstown, Md.

During one memorable stretch of that season, Shaffer won both nights of the Sharon Nationals, the Port Royal Labor Day Classic and the Port's Tuscarora 50 in less than a week. It was also during this season that Shaffer scored his lone World of Outlaws victory and bested the touring pros at Selinsgrove.

After that, the wins came on a regular basis. He won seven in 1992, then eleven in 1993 when he drove for Leon Wintermyer in the 1W.

In 1994, Todd teamed with Gary and Patti Beam in their #88 racer. It was a team that would stay together throughout the rest of Shaffer's career. Between 1994 and 2001, Shaffer would add more than 100 wins to his resume and pick up wins at tracks like Lincoln, Susquehanna, Bedford and Georgetown to bolster his win list.

One memorable winter covering 1998 and 1999, Todd was part of a two-car team fielded by his good friend Fred Rahmer for racing in Australia. Shaffer won four races in the land

down under during his visit.

Shaffer continued to win regularly through the end of the 2009 racing season. His final win that year was his eighth of the season. After 2009, Todd cut back on his racing schedule, and while he continued to turn in some top runs, he didn't visit victory lane again in a regular sprint car race.

During his career, Shaffer's most productive track was Port Royal where he sits third on the all-time win list with 94 victories. That trails only Keith Kauffman and Lance Dewease there. Five of Shaffer's point titles came at the Port.

At the historic Williams Grove Speedway, Todd won 38 times during his career and claimed three track titles. He visited Selinsgrove enough to win 29 times there and claim four track titles. While he only raced there regularly in 1991, Shaffer also owns 16 career wins at Sharon, Ohio and won the point title that season.

It should be noted that all of Todd Shaffer's wins came in full-fledged sprint cars. For much of his career, the cars were 410 sprints, but early on the Pennsylvania tracks were still running unlimited engines. There was one more note to add to Todd Shaffer's resume. Just after he called it a career, his friend Fred Rahmer put together a special race for Pennsylvania legends. Rahmer gathered some of this area's best, put them in 410 sprint cars painted similarly to some of their top rides and turned them loose for a feature race at Lincoln Speedway.

Todd Shaffer won that race over Kenny Adams in a field that included Lynn Paxton, Steve Smith, Kenny Jacobs, Jeff Shepard, Cris Eash, Billy Pauch, Steve Stambaugh, Steve Siegel and Bobby Weaver. That was Aug. 26, 2015 and could be recorded as Todd Shaffer's last win.



CONGRATULATIONS DON OTT ON YOUR INDUCTION INTO
THE NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL OF FAME! A WELL DESERVED HONOR!