



Photo by: Paul Arch

By Doug Kennedy

Davey Brown Jr. (born May 23, 1958) now joins his father, Davey Brown Sr. as a member of the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame (2001). At age 20, Brown was able to win the Williams Grove National Open with driver Kramer Williamson in 1978. That big win launched the career of Davey Brown, who lived in Delta, Pennsylvania, before moving to Shiloh, Pennsylvania. The family finally settled in Dover, Pennsylvania, the place where Davey Jr. learned to work on cars and engines. He preferred to race the tracks of Central and Eastern Pennsylvania. It was not uncommon to see Jr. turning the wrenches for some local drivers in the Pennsylvania region.

In 1982 and 1983, Brown Jr. with Lynn Paxton as the driver won the Williams Grove National Open. In 1984, Brown formed a partnership with Bob Weikert and driver Doug Wolfgang. "Wolfie" piloted the number 29 to 55 wins in 1985. The team also won three in a row at the National Open (1984-1986) with two-back-to-back Knoxville Nationals (1984-85), and the King's Royal in

1985. At the end of that season, Wolfgang was named Driver of the Year and Weikert the owner of the year. "What that team did was incredible," said Don Kreitz Jr., a former driver and current Sprint Car owner and owner of Kreitz Oval Track Parts, located in Sinking Springs, Pennsylvania.

Brown Jr. won two more Williams Grove National Opens with Kenny Jacobs (1988) and Don Kreitz Jr. (1993) as the drivers. Two All-Star championships would follow with Dale Blaney behind the wheel. The team would win twelve All-Star races in 1995 and 17 more in 1996. Overall, Wolfgang won 140 races with the World of Outlaws and 37 more with the All-Stars, as well as five Knoxville Nationals wins and two King's Royal wins at Eldora Speedway. Late in 1987, the team split, due to differing opinions and personalities.

Davey Brown Sr. was known as one of the best wrench turners of all-time, working with many of the well-known drivers in Sprint Car history. Kreitz said that he never had the opportunity of working for Sr. and Jr. at the same time. "Senior was the engine guy while Junior was at the track," said Kreitz.

Sr. and Jr. worked together on a number of those successful seasons. Having father and son working together was hard to beat. "We did a lot together, but not everything," said the 90-year-old Davey Brown Sr. "We never had any problems getting along. We were racing people and that's what we did."

Brown Sr. actually said that much of the success he experienced in the '80's and '90's could be attributed to his son, Davey Jr.

Senior also mentioned Doug Wolfgang as one of his favorite drivers. "He was not only a great driver, but he could build cars as well," said Brown Sr. He also mentions Dick "Toby" Tobias as another driver that he and his son worked with.

"When Junior was helping me, Davey Sr. was somewhere else," said Kreitz. "He (Jr.) helped me in 1993 and halfway through 1994. He was really, really good at the track. He always seemed to make the right decisions at the track. We had a lot of fun and won a lot of races. Almost everyone he helped would be winners. They won a lot of races. He was really good at his job. He's very deserving of being inducted into the Sprint Car Hall of Fame. Again, he was very good at his job."

"I was very happy about it," said Davey Sr. of his son's induction into the Sprint Car Hall of Fame. "It's great to have my son in there with me. I don't think too many families get that opportunity with father and son. It's quite an honor and very important for me."

Brown Jr. unexpectedly passed away in March of 1997. He may no longer be with us, but the legacy that Davey Brown Jr. developed will live on forever in the racing community.

DAVEY BROWN JR. MECHANIC



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