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WELCOME TO HUSET'S SPEEDWAY!

On behalf of FR2SD, LLC, Tod Quiring and our entire staff at Huset's Speedway, welcome to the 2024 racing season and the fourth full season of racing at Huset's Speedway since 2016. The track was carved from a soybean field by farmer / businessman Til Huset in 1953. The track opened in 1954 and ran in 1955 before he shut it down for 1956 and 1957. The track reopened in July 1958 after Huset sold the track to the Sioux Falls Stock Car Association. The association was formed by drivers who were boycotting the nearby Soo Speedway track. The track began running sprint cars weekly in 1980. The World of Outlaws ran at the track in April 1983 and it was won by Sammy Swindell. The association ran the races until it sold the track in 1988 to Clarence Rubin and his sons, Greg and Steve. The Rubin family built a very successful weekly Sunday night program over the years and decided to sell the track to Chuck Brennan at the end of the 2015 season.

The track was again sold in mid-July 2020 to Tod Quiring, the owner of the Jackson (Minn.) Motorplex; he announced an August reopening date as well as restoring historic Huset's name to the track. The first race at the track was a $20,000-to-win All Star Circuit of Champions race on Aug. 2, 2020. The All-Stars circuit returned for the first time since 2014 and the 15th time overall. Five total races were run in 2020, including a return visit from the World of Outlaws and one Monster Truck event. This off-season we have added a new office building and race shop for the Big Game Motorsports team up on the North entrance of the speedway. Staff and construction crews have been busy making improvements to the speedway all off-season. One year ago, a 70-site campground was added just at the base of the North hill for fans to utilize during the season. New decks were added at the beginning of 2021 to the 16 VIP suites for fans to enjoy the outdoor experience of the races along with the luxury of indoors. The catch fence was extended off of turn 2 along with a viewing platform for race teams to watch the races from while pitting out back. A devastating tornado on Memorial Day 2022 destroyed the VIP suite building. That entire off-season was spent re-building that structure while moving our scorers and announcers into a new area on the fourth level. Each year we plan to make several new upgrades to the facility to make Huset's Speedway one of THE top facilities in the country. You don't have to be an avid race fan to enjoy the experience. Dirt Track Racing across the country is seeing a huge spike in attendance versus other sports. We encourage kids to get involved in our Pizza Ranch Kids Club on the midway before the races and we will have several contests throughout the season for kids 12 & under as well. Race fans also have the opportunity to upgrade their general admission ticket to the air-conditioned comfort of the Turn One Suite Tower each and every night if they wish. Enjoy our three different concession areas along with the Pizza Ranch stand on the midway.

Our goal is to give you the BEST service, the BEST experience and most fun you have ever had! The staff of Huset's Speedway is here for you and ready to assist at every moment. While in the area we hope you find time visit all the great businesses in the Brandon and Sioux Falls area.

Enjoy a round of golf at the Brandon Country Club, enjoy a day on the trails at one of the many county or state parks, or stop in for a bite to eat at one of the many great restaurants in the area. So while you are here as our GUEST, make sure you have a Great time, make Great memories with family and friends and enjoy the racing action each and every night.

Doug Johnson
General Manager



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WELCOME TO I-90 SPEEDWAY!

Welcome back to I-90 Speedway for another exciting year of dirt track racing! We are proud to be a part of bringing our fans, sponsors, racers and employees back together for another fun-filled, action-packed year of auto racing!

This season, the Saturday Night Event will start with Hot Laps at 6:30 p.m. with races beginning at 7 p.m. The RPM Racing Series will run Saturday nights with Spielman Excavating RaceSaver Sprint Cars, Late Model Street Stocks, USRA B-Modifieds, and Lawn & Snow USRA Hobby Stocks. Each night of racing will include edge-of-your-seat drama that you won't want to miss!

Make sure you check our racing schedule on our web page at www.i90speedway.com and mark your calendars for the BIG SPECIAL EVENTS for the summer.

- MSTS 410's with FIREWORKS SHOW! We have an explosive night of the BIG IRON SPRINT CARS on July 4 with a big Fireworks Show after the races!
- RaceSaver Sprint Special Events are multiple dates with big payouts throughout the racing season on May 25, June 8, and July 13.
- Many Special Events are scheduled throughout the season providing a professional level of competition here at I-90 Speedway.
- MyRacePass FANTASY RACING has been added for a fun racing experience each night.

There's an opportunity to win a "Fantasy Racing Winners Basket" of fun goodies from our advertisers and sponsors every racing night!

Our staff is committed to providing you with the best racing entertainment available in the area. Please feel free to make yourselves at home, enjoy all the unique and exciting promotions we have available. Make a trip to the concessions stand and enjoy a few new items again this year. Also notice all of our sponsors that we appreciate for all their outstanding support and loyalty to help make dirt track racing successful!

Check out our web page at www.i90speedway.com for race results, news, sponsor links and the latest racing information.

On behalf of all the racers, advertisers, sponsors, and employees of I-90 Speedway, we want to thank you for your support. None of this would be possible without YOU! Enjoy the show and feel free to let us know what we can do to make your time with us more enjoyable.

LET'S GO RACING!!!

No. 54
Dustin Gulbrandson of Sioux Falls competes in a Late Model Street Stock at I-90 Speedway in 2022.

Photo: Calvin Kroger, Dirtshotz.com



I-90 SPEEDWAY
Hartford, SD

2024

I-90SPEEDWAY.COM

Hot Laps Start @6:30pm

MAY

- 4 — RPM RACE SERIES Season Opener
- 11 — RPM Racing Series
- 18 — TriState LateModels
- 25 — RaceSaver Sprint Series Sprint Special (Draw/ReDraw)

JUNE

- 1 — RPM Racing Series
- 8 — RaceSaver Sprint Series Sprint Special (Draw/ReDraw)
- 15 — Hartford Night
- 22 — Kids Night
- 29 — Kids  Coin Toss Night

JULY

- 4 — MSTS 410's Fireworks Show
- 6 — Driver Meet & Greet
- 13 — RaceSaver Sprint Series Sprint Special (Draw/ReDraw)
- 20 — SPRINTS King of the Hill
- 27 — HOBBY The Pit Stop Challenge (Draw/ReDraw)

AUGUST

- 3 — HOBBY King of the Hill
- 10 — LMSS The Pit Stop Challenge (Draw/ReDraw)
- 17 — BMOD The Pit Stop Challenge (Draw/ReDraw)
- 24 — LMSS King of the Hill
- 31 — NO RACES

SEPT

- 7 — RPM RACE SERIES Season Championship

RPM RACE SERIES

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RACESAVER SPRINTS

LATEMODEL STREETSTOCKS

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USRA HOBBYSTOCKS

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RAPID SPEEDWAY

ROCK RAPIDS, IA

2024 SCHEDULE

GATES OPEN AT 5:30 PM
RACES START AT 7:00 PM

MAY 3	**SEASON OPENER - 305 SPRINT CARS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
MAY 10	**LADIES NIGHT - LMSS, HOBBY STOCK SPECIAL** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
MAY 17	**FILL THE FOOD BANK, 305 SPRINT CARS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
MAY 24	**TRI-STATE LATE MODELS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
MAY 31	**305 SPRINT CARS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
JUN 7	**OUTLAW MINI MODS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
JUN 14	**KIDS BOX CAR RACES - 360 SPRINT CARS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
JUN 21	**SPORTSMAN SPECIAL + TRI-STATE LATE MODELS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
JUNE 28	**GREAT BIKE GIVEAWAY + 305 SPRINT CARS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
JUL 5	**VETERANS/FIRST RESPONDERS NIGHT & MSTS 410 SPRINT CARS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
JUL 12	**TRI-STATE LATE MODELS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
JUL 19	**CHRISTMAS IN JULY, 305 SPRINTS, BOB DEBOER MEMORIAL STOCK CAR RACE** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
JUL 23	**LYON CO FAIR RACE (PRESENTED BY FOLKENS BROTHERS TRUCKING) - LMSS, 305 SPRINT CARS & 360 SPRINT CARS**
JUL 26	**FREE ADMISSION NIGHT (PRESENTED BY IOWA CORN) - MEETING THE DRIVERS/ AUTOGRAPH SESSION, HOBBY STOCK KING OF THE KILL** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
AUG 2	**G.O.T.R.A + DAVE MULDER MEMORIAL B-MOD SPECIAL** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
AUG 9	**FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS, 305 SPRINTS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
AUG 16	**BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE, LMSS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES
AUG 23	**CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT, 305 SPRINT CARS** + RAPID SPEEDWAY CLASSES

* SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

400 S TAMA ST | ROCK RAPIDS, IA
ROCKRAPIDSSPEEDWAY.COM

WELCOME TO RAPID SPEEDWAY!

The team at Rapid Speedway is excited to bring Friday night racing to the area! Rapid Speedway features a 3/8-mile dirt oval and is located at the famed Lyon County Fairgrounds in Rock Rapids, Iowa. With a racing surface that is 80 feet wide, this place breeds three-wide racing!

Some of the upcoming highlights for this season include a ladies night on Mother's Day weekend with vendors in the climate-controlled 4-H building. We have a "Fill the Food Bank" night on May 19, kids box car races on June 16, Veterans and First Responders night on July 7, free admission on July 21, Friday Night Lights on August 11, and Back to School Drive on August 18. We have two Tuesday nights on the schedule this season: the USRA Summit Shootout on June 20, and the Lyon County Fair races are July 18!

This is the first year for Michelle and I as we work with the staff and Lyon County Fair Board to bring racing fans the best experience possible. As you may notice throughout the year, we are making some updates at the track. We ask for your patience as our team prepares the grounds for some long-term projects that will improve the fans' experience as they enjoy their favorite sport!

More event information is available at rockrapidsspeedway.com. We hope you can join us often!

Thanks,
Darrin Korthals

Darrin Korthals raced for several years at Rapid Speedway. He took over as the track's promoter in 2023
Submitted



WELCOME

DRIVERS

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BROOKE TATNELL

Tatnell is back-to-back 410 sprint car champion with goals for 2024

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

His official home may be 8,780 miles from Brandon, but San Souci, New South Wales, Australia's Brooke Tatnell sure has been finding it comfortable at Huset's the last couple of years.

Tatnell backed up his 2022 championship in the 410 sprint car class and went back-to-back in the famous DeWall Racing No. 16 last season with another title. It was the first time a driver has won back-to-back titles in the speedway's highest class since Mark Dobmeier pulled off a three-peat from 2007-09.

For as impressive as his championship run was last year, it's made even more impressive and speaks to Tatnell's consistency in that he never won a race in 2023. He had 10 Top 5 finishes and 14 Top 10s.

"Age is only a number. I can tell you there's a lot of 20-year-olds that can't do the physical work that I do and take the abuse."

"At the end of the day, we've had a pretty good run," the 52-year-old said. "The wins aren't there like we'd like, but in the same token, we're smart enough to know how to win championships. Sometimes that's not driving like being a 16-year-old."

A great example of driving for a championship came last year when the DeWall team didn't start strong, with an average finishing position of 8.7 after the first six races. But the team persevered, and found themselves with an 18-point lead heading into the final night of racing.

That meant that even if the driver in second place championship point standings were to win the race (Chase Randall), Tatnell would only need to finish 14th or better for the title. Tatnell started on the pole, so the odds were clearly in his favor to win his second championship in two years.

However, three laps into the finale, Tatnell had mechanical issues and had to pull into the infield work area. His return to the race sent him to the back, but he worked his way back to 11th, clinching the title.

"I threw away a lot of championships when I was younger. I thought I was indestructible and I made a lot of dumb moves like we see a lot of kids today make," he said. "That kid when I was 16-20 years old, that kid was not going to win those last two championships."

Tatnell consistently praised team owner Doug DeWall in last year's Victory Lane. He did it throughout the last two seasons when the Top 3 finishers are interviewed post-race.

DeWall is a prominent name in Huset's history as patriarch and Huset's Hall of Famer Marv DeWall (Class of 2002) won the championship as a driver in 1980. His son, Gary – Doug's brother – is also a Huset's Hall of Famer (2012), and won the title in 1991 and 1994.



Brooke Tatnell (left) is interviewed by Huset's infield PA announcer Austin Lloyd during the 2023 season.

JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

"Doug and I are very similar: we're too old and too ignorant to give up," Tatnell said of the team's early slide in 2023. "But he just kept on plugging away, trying stuff, trying to figure out why – because we were quick the previous season. We just had to work around a few things to get fast again."

Tatnell and DeWall will be back again in 2024 in the famous No. 16, attempting the three-peat in the 410 class.

While Tatnell will turn 53 years old this year, he said he's not planning on slowing any time soon. He's working on building his 13-year-old son's (Garrett) career. Tatnell said he'd like to race against Garrett at some point in the future.

"Age is only a number. I can tell you there's a lot of 20-year-olds that can't do the physical work that I do and take the abuse," he said of continuing his racing career. "I just keep pounding my body and eventually, yep, it's going to give up. My dad retired on his 60th birthday, so that's an eight-year goal."

Obviously race wins and championships are a goal for 2024, but Tatnell said there's something else driving him.

"The back-to-back stuff: it's all just team effort and I'm fortunate to be a part of the work the DeWalls do," he said. "If I have to three in a row to get Doug DeWall into the (Huset's) Hall of Fame, I'm going to do it because that man deserves to be there. I'm going to fight hard to win a championship to get him in that Hall of Fame."



Goos Jr. celebrates championship with fence climb

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

When Lee Goos Jr. won the 305 RaceSaver sprint car championship points last year at Huset's, he went fence climbing on the front stretch in front of the crowd.

Climbing the fence after a win became popular after four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves did it in 2000 when he registered his first CART victory at the Detroit Grand Prix. Since then, he's been nicknamed the Spider Man for the number of times he's done it, including after his four Indianapolis 500 wins.

For Goos Jr., he took the opportunity to do the same after winning the championship last season, and his son, Dylan Waxdahl, joined him in the celebratory climb.

Waxdahl spent last season working for Oklahoma City-based Ryan Timms Racing. Timms crisscrossed the country last year hitting bigger sprint car and midget events.

He wanted to be at Huset's to watch Goos Jr. claim the title, so Waxdahl worked through the night in Oklahoma on the Timms sprint car and made it back to Brandon in time for the start of last year's 305 RaceSaver championship night on Aug. 27.

When Goos Jr., won the title last August – by a single point that wasn't determined until he made a pass for the race lead on the final night with three laps to go – he pulled into Victory Lane on the front chute. Waxdahl stuck his head in the cockpit and yelled, 'Should we climb the fence?'





Lee Goos Jr., celebrates a win last year at Huset's Speedway.

JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

Goos Jr. said he was surprised by the gesture because Waxdahl previously told him he was going to wait and perform the fence climb after he won his own first feature event. Waxdahl is scheduled to race full time in 2024 in a 305 RaceSaver sprint car at Huset's, Rapid and I-90.

"I thought he wanted to save that for when he won, so I thought that was pretty cool," Goos Jr. said of the two of them climbing the Huset's fence last August. "When he said it, I was like, 'I will if you do.'"

Goos Jr.'s return to the race car has been a successful one. He raced in the late 1990s and early 2000s before starting up again recently. He also won the track championship last year in the 305 RaceSaver sprint car class at I-90, a feat he accomplished in 2021 as well.

"Everything just turned out great last year," he said. "We didn't even have a goal of winning the title at I-90 last year. Our focus was Huset's, but everything worked out and I-90 was a bonus."

Because he was racking up RaceSaver sprint car points at Huset's and I-90, the 44-year-old also finished second in the IMCA national standings, 14 points behind Tyler Drueke of Eagle, Neb.

The Hartford, S.D., native will be back at Huset's this year, but this time he'll be ramping up on horsepower as he's scheduled to be in his own 410 sprint car. He said he'll occasionally be back in the 305 RaceSaver at Rapid and I-90 on Friday and Saturday nights.

Lee Goos Jr. (left) climbs the Huset's Speedway fence with his son – Dylan Waxdahl – after winning the 305 RaceSaver sprint car championship in 2023.



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ZACH OLIVIER

Olivier repeats as LMSS champion at Huset's



PHOTOS: JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Zach Olivier clearly has things figured out in the Late Model Street Stock class at Huset's. The Sioux Falls native won the points championship for the second straight year, claiming 11 Top 10 finishes, seven Top 5 finishes and two wins in the 2023 season.

Overall, that's eight LMSS championships for Olivier in his career. He has four at I-90 Speedway, two now at Huset's, and two overall series championships.

Those numbers could have been even more stacked, but last year he didn't race for points at I-90, and therefore took him out of the series championship chase as well.

"I've got three kids at home. Wife, dogs, career," he said of taking Saturday nights off from I-90 in the 2023 season. "I just don't have the time I used to have so we just kind of stayed home. We did some trips, vacations and just spent time with family. If nothing else, we stayed home and threw some steaks on the grill."

But it's not like staying away from I-90 was easy last year. He said their focus in 2024 is to defend the title at Huset's, and hopefully make it to I-90 occasionally.

"Absolutely, I missed it," he said. "We raced there every Saturday night for many years. It was really weird the first couple weeks to not be there knowing they were racing. We definitely missed it and we'll be back."

Olivier said they'd also make a trek to Rock Rapids on Friday nights this season when time allows. But like last year, the top goal is to win the championship title at Huset's.

"We were fortunate and were successful there," he said of last year's dominating performance in Brandon. "The No. 1 goal this year is to win that thing again and the No. 2 goal is just to win races, no matter where we go."

He'll be back again in the familiar No. 71, but this year in an updated color scheme.

"It's kind of a twist on a previous scheme that we had used. I'll leave it at that," he said. "I want it to be a little bit of a surprise but it's going to be a really nice-looking car."

The 35-year-old is the General Manager for Lineage Logistics in Luverne, Minn. He has three kids under the age of 10 at home with another on the way.

No doubt, life has put a crimp in Olivier's racing style, but he said he wouldn't change a thing.

"The older I get, the more responsibilities I have. But I love it. I love what I do," he said. "There's a lot going on, but we love what we're doing."



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‘I gotta keep that going’

Familiar No. 98 back in 2024 with Jensen behind the wheel



Dan Jensen with grandkids Stella (left) and Daniel.
PHOTOS: (TOP) SUBMITTED, (BOTTOM) JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

A familiar No. 98 will be back at area race tracks this summer, and for Humboldt resident Dan Jensen, he’s doing all he can to keep the number around the local racing scene for as long as he can.

The 65-year-old Jensen has long been known for driving the No. 98 in the Late Model Street Stock (LMSS) class. He won the LMSS championship at I-90 Speedway in Hartford in 1998 and 1999, and the title in the same class at Huset’s in 1999. Last year he finished sixth in championship points at Huset’s and 17th at I-90.

He began racing at Huset’s in 1986 in the No. 98. He hasn’t missed a season since, always under the same number. But although it’s been nearly 40 years racing the No. 98 for Jensen, the number began years earlier at Huset’s.

Jensen’s father-in-law, Glenn Anderson, owned cars that raced at Huset’s and the now defunct Soo Speedway with the number 98 beginning in the 1950s. At the first race in Huset’s history on May 23, 1954, Anderson had a No. 98 entered driven by Joe Volsch. In all, 15 different drivers raced for Anderson over the years with the No. 98. Anderson was inducted into the Huset’s Speedway Hall of Fame in 2000.

“I wish we found the answer,” Jensen said when asked why Anderson used the No. 98. “We’ve tried to research it, and we’ve never found out why.”



Glenn Anderson (upper right) with one of his early No. 98 cars from the 1950s at Huset’s Speedway. Robin Dump (center, kneeling) was the driver. SUBMITTED

Anderson passed away in 1998, and ironically, his funeral was on 9/8/98.

“That was totally by chance,” Jensen said. “I looked down at the date and was like, ‘Oh my gosh.’”

Although now 65 years old and embarking on his 38th year behind the wheel, Jensen said he feels a tug to continue racing because of the number.

“I gotta keep that going,” he said. “I feel bad that if I stop, the number will die because I’ve tried to keep it alive all these years. There’s a lot of pride there.”

Jensen married Anderson’s daughter, Jodi, in 1982. Over those 40-plus years, Jensen said he and Anderson spent countless hours in the race shop as Anderson built and owned modifieds, supermodifieds, street stocks and sprint cars.

“He was like a second dad to me,” Jensen said. “We were really tight. I’m getting close to the end of a long racing career, but I’m finding it very difficult to walk away. It has been an amazing ride.”

Over his near-40-year run, Jensen has more than 50-career feature wins in the area. He was inducted into the Huset’s Speedway Hall of Fame in 2007.



DAN JENSEN

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COLTON ARENDS

No racing background, No problem

Arends has now won two straight titles at Rapid Speedway



PHOTO: CODY PAPKE AT CRPPHOTOS.COM

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Colton Arends first jumped into a USRA Stock Car in 2019. The last four years have proven to be efficient for the Luverne, Minn., native as he claimed his second straight points title at Rapid Speedway in the class last season.

He was in a USRA Hobby Stock for four years prior to jumping into the more technical stock car, and it's been a successful transition.

"There's just a lot more suspension stuff you can do for the set up on the car," he said. "And there's more horsepower in a stock car."

The learning curve has been self-taught for Arends. Unlike many in the motorsports world, Arends doesn't come from a family who's spent a lot of time at the race track over the years.

"It's been kind of fun over the years to learn everything," he said. "My family has never really had a racing background. I've never had anyone to lean on to figure something out. We're just kind of learning as we go."

The racing bug actually started when Arends said his father used to help fellow Luverne natives and Late Model Street Stock racers Scott and Chad Overgaard. The brothers raced frequently at Huset's, Rock Rapids and I-90.

"We would always go with them," Arends said. "That was really my only introduction to racing."

But like many others who get an early taste of the sport, Arends was hooked.

Along with racing at Rapid last year, Arends and his team also took their stock car to Deer Creek, Minn., on Saturdays and Mason City, Iowa on Sundays.

The 27-year-old also races select special events in the area, and around the country. He raced the 'Clash on the Coast' event earlier this year in Baker, Fla.

In March, he raced at the 'Stand On It Classic' at Arrowhead Speedway in Colcord, Okla. He finished fifth overall out of 87 cars on Night 2 of the event on March 23. He started 18th, working his way up to fifth, after coming out the B feature.

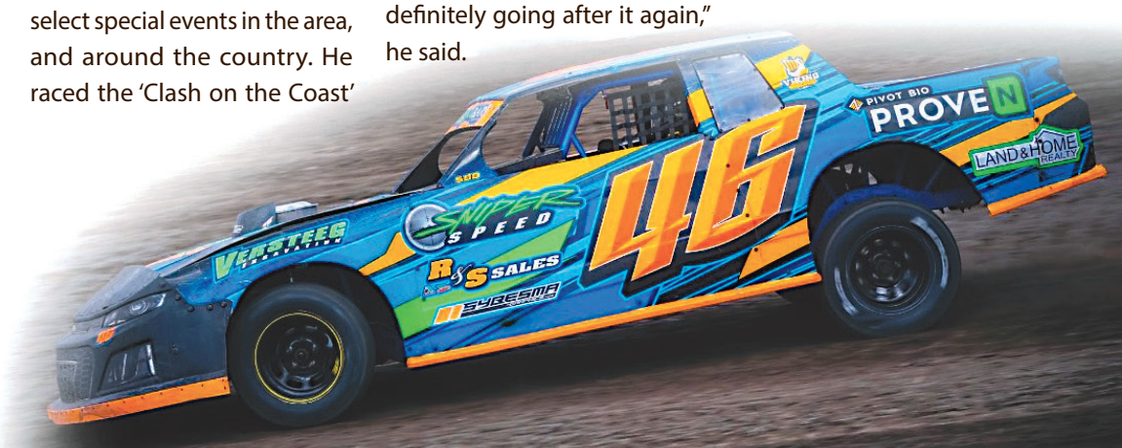
With special events in Florida and Oklahoma already on his resume for 2024, he said he's looking to defend his title at Rapid this summer.

"We'll be back, and we're definitely going after it again," he said.

Arends drives the No. 46 stock car, which is the same number he wore while playing hockey at Luverne High School.

Now with a little one at home, Arends said the team will continue occasional winter trip for racing, but are focused on keeping things local. It's as he wants to take the sport.

"I've got a little son and a young family, and I'm getting married next year," he said. "This is just kind of our hobby. It's actually kind of evolved more than we thought it would."



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Erickson claims USRA B-Mod title at both Rapid and I-90 Speedway

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Duke Erickson jumped into a USRA B-Mod last summer for the first time. Clearly, the Sioux Falls native took right to it, winning the points championship at both I90 Speedway and Rapid Speedway

But it's not like mastering the B-Mod was that much of a stretch for the 38-year-old. In 2016, he began racing an A-Mod at Huron and Watertown before making the switch last off-season to the new class.

And it's not as if motorsports were new to him when he first strapped into a race car at age 30 for the first time eight years ago. Erickson and his family moved to Huron from California in the third grade. While in California as a youngster, Erickson cut his teeth in the motorsports world on a motorcycle at the Lodi Cycle Bowl, arguably the premier motorcycle flat track venue in Northern California where two-wheel racing is extremely popular.

Once in South Dakota, he and his father raced at the Sioux Valley Cycle Club near Renner on many occasions.

Although he found success on two wheels, it was last year's breakout season at I-90 and Rapid that set him apart. There were 49 different competitors in the B-Mod class at I-90 last year and 48 at Rapid, and Erickson beat them all. He finished with two wins and 13 Top 10 finishes at I-90 and one win and 10, Top 10 finishes at Rapid.

Interestingly, he said Rapid Speedway was his favorite place to compete, and for a unique reason.

"It's dark, it's kind of technical," he said. "It's probably one of the darkest tracks we race at. It's all on the driver. It's easy to go off the race track, just because of the way the skyline is. When you come to the corner, it's dark and sometimes you can't see where the top of the track is so it's pretty easy to go off."

I-90 is a lot like it, but clearly the darkness of Rapid has played to Erickson's favor.

Although he's never raced at Huset's, he said he'd like to, even with it¬¬s intimidating wall around the entire circuit. Huset's used to race the USRA B-Mod class, but dropped it when the track reopened for weekly races in 2017.

"I'd love to race there," he said. "I wish they'd bring them back for a race or two, maybe for a special, something like that."

Until then, the No. 57 will be back at I-90 and Rapid in 2024 to defend the championship title. If he keeps up his current pace, he'll likely have a good shot at it in 2024. Last summer, he missed a race at Rapid when he attended a special event at Wagner Speedway. Even with the absence at Rapid, he still claimed the title by 10 points over Dave Kennedy of Tea.

Erickson's nephew, Corbin, also races in the B-Mod class and finished 11th in points in the 2023 season at Rapid Speedway. He'll also be driving a 360 sprint car this year for longtime owner Dale Furby.

Erickson's brother, Clint, is another in the family stable of B-Mod racers. He finished 12th in championship points at Rapid and seventh at I-90.



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DUSTIN GULBRANDSON

Seven-time USRA national champion Dustin Gulbrandson back in 2024

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

When it comes to USRA Hobby Stock racing, few have had a national impact the way Sioux Falls native Dustin Gulbrandson has.

Formed in 2002, the USRA (United States Racing Association) names national champions in several divisions as equivalent points are kept each at tracks all around the country. Up to as many as 15 different tracks are competing around the country each weekend.

The sanctioning body takes the Top 20 finishes of each competitor around the country and tabulates a national championship points race.

Obviously, the more racers compete, the better the chance of accumulating points. Points are kept obviously where each competitor finishes, but passing points are also kept throughout the year.

"You start towards the back, and it definitely helps you out," Gulbrandson.

Since 2014, Gulbrandson is a seven-time national champion in the Hobby Stock class, claiming titles from 2014-18 and again in 2020 and 2021.

"You race hard all season and the points accumulate. If it happens, it happens."

Last year, he finished third in the national point standings, 40 points behind back-to-back winner Dylan Clinton of West Union, Iowa. He ended the season second in championship points at Rapid, but sparingly at I-90, which resulted in not accumulating as many outings as in year's past.

In 2016, Huset's was also a sanctioned USRA track and Gulbrandson racked up points each week by competing at Rapid on Friday, I90 on Saturday and Huset's on Sunday, all the while accumulating USRA points.

Rapid was the only local track he competed at last year, finishing two points behind eventual champ Tracy Holuska.

"It's hard to win those things," he said of the USRA's national championship scoring system. "You race hard all season and the points accumulate. If it happens, it happens."

This year, Gulbrandson said he's focused on winning the Hobby Stock title at Rapid, but he's also set his sights on a pair of other tracks.

Along with Rapid on Friday, Gulbrandson said his Sioux Falls-based Hobby Stock team will travel to Deer Creek Speedway south of Rochester, Minn. He'll also head fulltime to Mason City Motor Speedway in Mason City, Iowa on Sunday nights.

The trek to Mason City on Sunday is a healthy one. An owner of a repair shop in Sioux Falls that's open on Monday morning, the three-hour drive to-and-from Mason City is a handful. However, the events in Mason City start at 5 p.m. and are usually over by 8 or 9 p.m. Gulbrandson said there were nights last year when they cruised by Brandon on their way home from Mason City on Sunday night before the races were over at Huset's.

Gulbrandson also has a USRA Stock Car. He said they'll be racing that series approximately 10 times this year, all in preparation for a $100,000-to-win race at 300 Raceway in Farley, Iowa coined the Yankee Dirt Track Classic.

"We bought that Stock Car just for that show," Gulbrandson said. "You're not going to see that kind of money too often in a stock car, so we were like 'well, yea, let's try it.'"

The Yankee Dirt Classic is scheduled for Aug. 27-31.

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Halouska claims championship titles at Rock Rapids, I-90



COURTESY UNITED STATES RACING ASSOCIATION

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Tracy Halouska was looking forward to a fun season of racing in 2023. The thoughts of winning a track title wasn't on his radar.

But when summer slipped into fall, the Worthing native had two track titles to his name. Halouska won the USRA Hobby Stock championships at both I-90 and Rapid Speedway.

And as it turns out, the championships came completely by chance. Halouska has been a regular in the Late Model Street Stock series at Huset's. In 2023, however, he drove the Hobby Stock owned by Brandon native Dean Zahn at both I-90 and Rapid.

On their way to Rock Rapids last year for the May 5 season-opener, Halouska told Zahn that "it would be cool if we could win on the first night I'm ever inthe car."

The 30-year-old said their initial plan didn't include racing full time in 2023. But after winning on opening night, they changed their approach and went for the title.

"We ended up winning and showed up the rest of the year," he said.

Last year Halouska replaced Zahn's son, Joe, in the Hobby Stock. Joe is scheduled to be back in that car this year, but Halouska will be in a second car on the team and he said they'd like to make a run at a repeat at both I-90 and Rapid.

But, he said, he and his family will approach the season with the right perspective.

"I feel like now there's a little more expectation, but we're generally just going for fun," he said. "That's what our family loves to do. If we win, great. We always want to win, I'm competitive. It would be cool to repeat, but a lot of things have to happen throughout the year and things just have to go your way."

While he was picking up wins and championship points at I-90 and Rapid last year, he was also picking up national USRA points. When the season ended, Halouska finished fourth in the national standings, 122 points behind eventual champion Dylan Clinton of West Union, Iowa.

While he'll be racing again at Rapid on Friday and I-90 on Saturday in the Hobby Stock for Zahn, he'll be back at Huset's in his own LMSS car on Sundays this year. He finished eighth in championship points in 2023 in the LMSS series, and it's an area he said he'd like to improve upon.

"I'd like to get a lot more comfortable in that (LMSS) and be more competitive every night," he said. "It's just kind of been hit and miss in that series. I'd like to grow a little more as a racer."

Halouska is the son of Marty Halouska, who also raced a No. 86 in the Sportsman and Hobby Stock class.



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KALEB JOHNSON

Johnson building on 21st-to-5th finish in last year's finale



PHOTOS: JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writerr

Kaleb Johnson has never won a sprint car feature at Huset's Speedway, but if last year's season finale is indication, the 27-year-old is really close to getting one.

Really close.

Johnson finished seventh overall in last year's 410 sprint car class points championship at Huset's with four Top 5 finishes including a season-best third on June 4.

But it was his run at the final race of the season on Sept. 3 that really raised an eyebrow.

Johnson entered the $6,000-to-win Bull Haulers Brawl with a smaller engine than the rest of the field. That's legal, but racing a 360 cubic inch engine in a 410 sprint car race where the cars have naturally-aspirated, methanol-injected overhead valve V-8 engines that deliver 900 horsepower is beyond difficult.

Imagine playing a basketball game with four players instead of five. Or a football game with one less lineman. That's essentially what Johnson was up against.

It didn't help that Johnson didn't qualify well to open the evening's events, placing 19th out of the 21 cars. His heat race was no better, finishing seventh out of seven.

Because of his sluggish start to the night, Johnson started 21st – dead last in the feature.

But the Sioux Falls native and former Dakota Wesleyan basketball player found something in the night's finale, racing his purple No. 22K all the way to fifth, obviously the biggest mover of the night.

"The track kind of slicked off to my advantage," he said. "I was able to work the bottom. It was really slick at the top, and the cushion was around the wall. I was able to use my left foot (brake) and navigate around there and make some stuff happen."

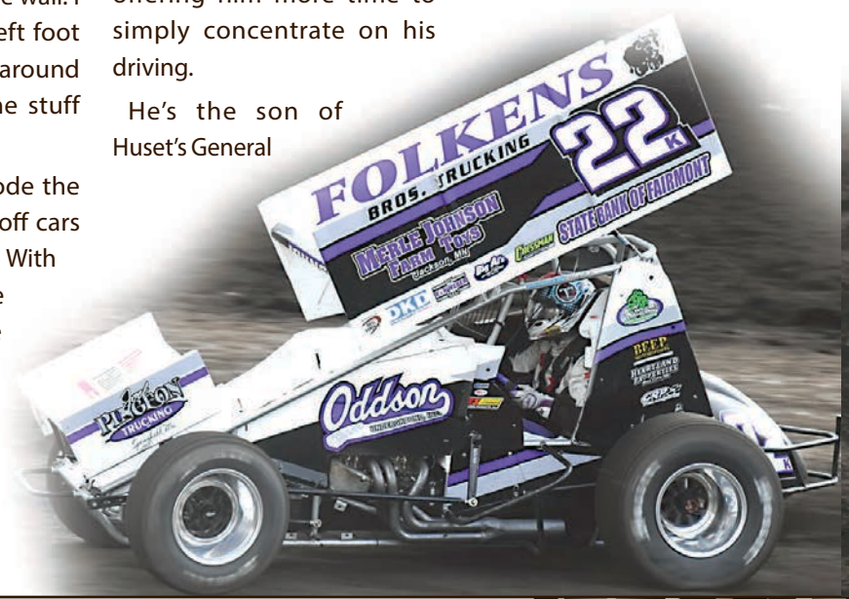
Johnson certainly rode the bottom as he picked off cars throughout the event. With seven to go, he said he looked up at the scoreboard on the backstretch and saw that he was in ninth.

"I thought to myself, I didn't expect to do this, let's try and pass a few more here and it worked out," he said. "I'm not much of a hammer-down, hold it wide open and drive it through the ruts kind of guy. I like when it gets slick. That's more my forte. You really have to drive the car instead of just holding it wide open."

Despite his frustration of not having a feature win at Huset's, he's said he's excited for this year. He's hired a crew chief, offering him more time to simply concentrate on his driving.

He's the son of Huset's General Manager Doug Johnson. Although dad has a lot to do following the racing events, Kaleb said he always makes time to check on his son after a race, even if for just a few seconds.

"It would probably surprise a lot of people how he comes and sees us," Kaleb said. "For as good as a race track promoter he is, he's even a better dad. No matter what happens, he's usually the first one to stop by."



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Matt Juhl looking for elusive win, championship in 410 class

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Could this be the year Matt Juhl finally breaks through at Huset's?

The Tea native has been a frontrunner in the 410 sprint car class for years. He typically qualifies well and is seemingly always in the mix when A feature laps are clicking off at the end of the night.

But for as much as the No. 09 has been up front, Juhl has never won a 410 sprint car feature at Huset's.

That's likely a surprise to many. Juhl has won sprint car features in the 410 class at the famed Knoxville Raceway. He's won two features in a 360 sprint car at Huset's and was the track champion in that class in 2013.

But the 410s? Success on that level has eluded him.

"I've run second so many times. I've led a lot of laps, but just…," Juhl said as he reminisced about his near wins in the 410 class at Huset's.

Ironically, he was in decent shape last year to claim his first 410 sprint car championship at Huset's, despite not having a victory. He was leading the championship points race midway through the season.

But things took a drastic turn at the Huset's Highbank Nationals on June 21. The Highbanks event was a special event and wasn't a points race for the season-long track championship. For that special event, Juhl piloted the car owned by Rapid City's Shane Liebig.





Tea's Matt Juhl talks with Sacramento's Kalib Henry before the start of the season opener on May 21, 2023.

PHOTOS: JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

Juhl qualified 20th out of 54 cars and finished second in his heat race. While running ninth in the A feature later in the night, Juhl got tagged by Mark Dobmeier coming out of Turn 2 and Juhl rode out a series of flips down the backstretch.

The crash actually wasn't that violent, but Juhl's final gyration and abrupt landing on track surface was a jolt.

"I just came down straight onto the frame," he said. "My back took all the impact."

The 34-year old fractured his T4 and T5 vertebrae, and he was out for the rest of the season as he recouped from the massive hit.

"I knew it right away," he said of the crash and the pending injury. "I could barely breathe. I knew instantly that something wasn't right."

With that, his lead on the championship race obviously evaporated when regular season racing resumed on July 9. He still ended up finishing 12th in the championship despite missing half of the season because of the injury.

But he'll be back again this year in his familiar No. 09, sponsored by the business he owns, Octane Ink. A 410 sprint car title, and at the very least a 410 feature win is in his crosshairs.

"My goal is to win a championship," he said. "I think I can definitely do it. It's tough because I literally have one guy right now (on his pit crew). I always had a very strong team. I grew up with my buddies and everybody was committed. I was pretty lucky really. But I get it - everybody gets older.



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RYAN BICKETT

Bickett racing family grows with full stall of race cars in 2024

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Ryan Bickett has seen his fair share of Victory Lane at area race tracks. The sprint car racer has eight victories at Huset's – seven times in a 360 sprint car and once in a 410 - and has one career win at I-90 Speedway in a 305 RaceSaver sprint car.

Bickett comes from a long racing family. His father, Don, began the tradition of tackling area race tracks decades ago. He has four career Late Model Street Stock feature wins at Huset's.

Now, the newest generation is finding his way to Victory Lane. In 2022, Dillon, Ryan's nephew, found his way to Victory Lane at I-90 Speedway twice in a RaceSaver sprint car. On July 9 of last year, the 21-year-old did the same for the first time at Huset's.

It all started for Dillon when Uncle Ryan was headed to Florida three years ago with his race car in tow for early spring races. When Ryan posted the trip on social media, Dillon was quick to respond.

"Where's my car at," he wrote in the comments section.

Fast forward three years, and the youngster has three feature wins on his resume.

Ryan has raced against his nephew, both in a 360 sprint car and in the RaceSaver sprint car class.

"It's fun, and it makes me level up because who wants to get beat by their younger nephew," Ryan said. "And it makes him level up because why wouldn't you want to beat your uncle who's been in it for 20 years?"

Ryan will be back again this year too, racing in the 410 sprint car class. Dillon may get a shot in that bigger horsepower car as well, but the stable of family sprint cars won't stop there.

Dillon's stepfather, Travis Christensen, is scheduled to be in a 305 RaceSaver sprint car, as is Ryan's stepson, Easton Ruml.

"If all goes well, we'll have a shop full of race cars," Ryan said of their race shop in Ramona, which doubles as a truck shop during the winter as he owns his own trucking company. "We'll be almost up to double digits with sprint cars and two midgets. But we're going to have quite a fleet of 305s at some race tracks throughout the summer."



The Bickett race shop in Ramona has six sprint car ready to go for the 2024 season. SUBMITTED

The two midgets that sit quietly for the most part in the winter are the wildcard in the stable. Midget racing isn't wildly popular in this part of the country, but Ryan said he gets them out as much as possible. He participates in the annual Chili Bowl Nationals midget races each January in Tulsa.

Other than that, it's a healthy haul from South Dakota to get to a midget race. Ryan said if there's ever a rainout in South Dakota, it's not uncommon for his team to unload the race trailer, reload with the midget equipment and head to Port City Raceway in Tulsa for an overnight run.

"I would do better in the midget if I raced it throughout the year instead of just one show per year," he said. "The window of opportunity is wide open with them just sitting there."



Third generation driver Dillon Bickett celebrates on top of his wing after winning at Huset's on July 9, 2023.

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21 years removed from Victory Lane, Zebell finds it four times in 2023



J.J. Zebell celebrates in victory lane at Huset's Speedway on June 18, 2023. PHOTOS: JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

J.J. Zebell had a season to remember in the 2023 in the Late Model Street Stocks at Huset's.

The Parker native claimed victory a season-best four times in the series, the first coming just the second night out on May 28, 2023. That Victory Lane was an emotional one. It was the first time he'd been there in 21 years.

But clearly the early-season victory was no fluke. Zebell went on to claim three more victories and finished second in the championship points battle, 21 points behind two-time champ Zach Olivier.

His recent climb to be in contention for both the track and LMSS series championship has been a roller coaster. He began racing a USRA Hobby Stock in the mid-1990s but gave up the sport for more than a decade to concentrate on his personal life to raise his children.

His return took a dramatic turn last year when he joined a formidable team owned by Ron Howe. The three-car stable included Howe, Zebell and Mike Chaney. The cars were built by Keegan Norquist of Norquist Fabrication in Beresford. Known as the NF1 chassis, and all three were lightning quick from the start in 2023, as Howe also won a feature on Aug. 27 and Chaney finished second by a nose on June 11.

The team is adding a fourth car this year to be driven by Lance Nordstrom.

"It's the kind of car that's working for me," Zebell said of the NF1. "The car has been spot-on. It's been a pretty phenomenal car."

Zebell has never won a track championship, at Huset's or elsewhere. He and Olivier have both said that winning the title at Huset's is squarely their goal in 2024.

"That's our plan. I think we're in contention to do that. We're definitely geared up for it but a lot of things can happen," Zebell said. "We've been working on getting our engine program right. We were a little bit off on that last year."

If they were a bit off on that aspect in 2023, every other LMSS competitor is officially on notice going into this summer.

The 50-year-old Zebell said he'll also make some adjustments in his driving style this season. It seems he was either out front in 2023, or way off the pace with a mishap or accident. In 12 races last year, he won four, but also had three DNFs.

"I've never been able to finish the deal," he said of winning a points title. "That's probably because of my driving style. I've always gone for the wins instead of holding back and racing for a championship. I'm just going to try to keep it all together this year - try to be more consistent."

But finishing second to Olivier is nothing to hang his head over, and Zebell said he recognizes that.

But a title this year? He said he's going to make a serious run at it.

"It wasn't necessarily frustrating finishing second last year. It was just good to be back running again, back in contention again," he said. "There's so many scenarios out there where you have to put it together. We just have to go back and race the race car."





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COLBY KLAASSEN

Klaassen adjusts plans in 2023 and wins I90 LMSS championship

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Colby Klaassen had big plans entering the 2023 season with hopes of running full time in the Tri State Late Model Series.

The Tri State series is a traveling series of late model cars that race in the area from May to August each year attracting large crowds. In 2024, the series is scheduled to race at Huset's on July 17 and 18, I-90 on May 18 and Rapid on May 24, June 21 and July 12.

Before the Tri State series could get going last year, the Little Rock, Iowa resident jumped into a Late Model Street Stock to open the season. His initial plans to run the Tri State series took a back seat when he won the first two features of the season at I-90 in the LMSS car, and his focus changed.

"I thought if we're going to win a championship, it's going to be this year," the 27-year-old said after capturing the first two feature wins of the season. He went on to win the track championship at I-90 – his first of any kind – by 32 points over Mike Chaney.

He finished fifth overall at Huset's last year in the LMSS, a series he's run for the last three years. He started in a USRA Hobby stock in 2016.

Despite winning the title last year at I-90 in the LMSS, Klaassen said he's sticking to his original plan this year of going Tri State Late Model racing in 2024 on a full-time basis.

"It needs my full attention if I'm going to do it," he said. "It's on my bucket list to race one. It's definitely more expensive and a step up from what I've done. It's way more involved."

He said he'll likely still get some limited time in the LMSS series. He sold his championship winning car from last year to Kyle DeBoer of Salem. DeBoer finished 19th in championship points in the LMSS in 2023 at Huset's and 11th at I90.

"I'll help them out and set things up for them," Klaassen said. "If the schedule allows, I might get to drive it some."

At the May 18 event at I-90 when the Tri State Late Models visit, the LMSS will be racing as well. Klaassen said there's a chance he could race both cars that night.

Klaassen is the son of Darwin Klaassen, who raced sporadically in a USRA Hobby Stock and Late Model Street Stock, as did Klaassen's uncle, Brad, who won the track championship in the LMSS in 2003 and 2004.

Although his father also competed in a race car, he's more widely known as a 2005 inductee into the Augustana University Athletic Hall of Fame where over four years (1985-88) with the Vikings, he finished with 1,209 points, 755 rebounds and set a school single-season record with 60 blocked shots.

Colby's Tri State Late Model this year will carry the familiar No. 34K, a number he's raced with for years. That number is a tribute to a toy car he played with as a child with the same number.



PHOTO: JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

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Kroon turns restoration project into 8 championships at Rapid Speedway

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

The Sportsman's class at Rapid Speedway may be an entry level series, but don't tell that to the 20 teams who competed in it last summer.

Essentially, the Sportsmen's class is a detuned USRA Hobby Stock car. They look somewhat similar, but the Sportsmen's is more affordable and is a way for drivers to get used to the rigors of piloting a racecar around the 3/8-mile oval.

For Rock Rapids native Brian Kroon, the series is a perfect fit for what he's hoping to get out of the local racing scene.

Kroon is a bit of a late bloomer, first jumping into the series as a 32-year-old in 2012. Now 12 years later, he's mastered the class at Rapid as he claimed his eighth overall points championship last summer.

Along with his eight championships, 2023 was also his sixth in a row. Now 44 years of age, he said he'll be back in 2024 for his seventh in a row and ninth overall.

But, he said it's getting tougher.

"I've got four kids, a full-time job farming," he said. "Between the job, my family and racing, things get busy. I'm at a point where farming has to come first."

But it's not like he has a lot to prove. Still, the itch is there.

"I haven't even touched the car yet," he said when the *Journal* talked to him in mid-April. "But it's the same as last year. We'll be ready."

Kroon's late start into racing came somewhat by chance. His father, Bill, raced on-and-off at Rapid when Kroon was a child. In 2008, Bill sold his car to current Late Model Street Stock driver Zach Olivier. Olivier put the car back on the market in 2012, the same year Rapid announced they were starting a Sportsman's class.

"I guess it came pretty naturally for me. It was all those years of watching my dad."

When Brian saw that his dad's former car was for sale, he purchased it in hopes of restoring it for his father as a keepsake.

"The more I talked with my dad, I thought it would be fun to put it back together and go racing with it because then I could say I've done it," Brian said. "My dad said he'd build the motor if I could do the rest."

In the end, the car still hasn't been restored. Brian actually used parts from the car and built an entire new car for the new series.

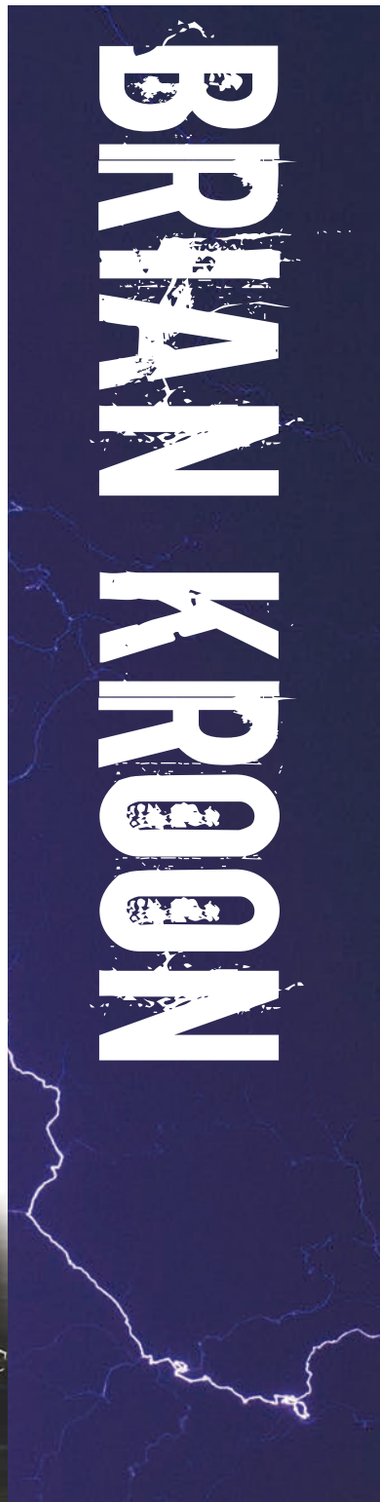
And he was clearly a quick study. In his first heat race in 2012, he started from the back, by request, to ease into the racing scene. He requested the same for the feature event, but that didn't seem to faze him.

Kroon came from the back on his first night in the car and won the feature.

"Each time I went into a corner, I pushed a little harder and harder," he said. "I guess it came pretty naturally for me. It was all those years of watching my dad."

PHOTO: JAMIE BORKOWSKI AT JAMIELAINEPHOTO.COM





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JUSTIN HENDERSON

Henderson to pilot two famous cars in two years

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

When it comes to iconic sprint cars, Justin Henderson is getting his fair share at piloting them lately.

The Tea native and two-time Huset's 410 sprint car track champion landed the seat of the famed Kreitz Racing No. 69K based out of Pennsylvania. The baby blue car was made famous in the 1970s when Don Kreitz raced it around the Keystone State. He brought the car to the Knoxville Nationals each year where sprint car fans in the Midwest got a glimpse of the famous, unique-colored car.

His son, Donnie Kreitz Jr., raced the baby blue 69 until his retirement in 2015 after racing injuries caused concussion-like symptoms.

Since then, the famous No. 69 sprint car with its distinct look has continued to race in the Pennsylvania area.

Henderson raced the car while he lived in Indianapolis in 2015 and had the seat last year for a couple of races. He said he may get back in it again this year a few more times at Williams Grove Speedway in Mechanicsburg, Penn.

Logan Wagner of Harrisonville, Penn., will pilot the car for the majority of the 2024 season.

But even though Henderson won't straddle the famed 69 out of Pennsylvania this year, he'll be in another iconic car this summer at Knoxville Raceway when he's scheduled to race for legendary car owner Guy Forbrook in the famous No. 5.

"Talk about iconic," Henderson said of his 2024 Knoxville ride.

Forbrook's teams have won nine track championships at Knoxville with storied drivers such as Danny Lasoski, Jack Haudenschield, Johnny Herrera and Terry McCarl.

Asked if he felt some pressure climbing in the successful Knoxville car, Henderson was quick to respond.

"The right word is pressure, for sure," he said. "The constant pressure to perform any way, from year to year, is high. Then you're going to put yourself in an iconic car that never does bad? I mean, I either go perform or I quit, honestly. Like, that's it. From an athlete's perspective, that is it."



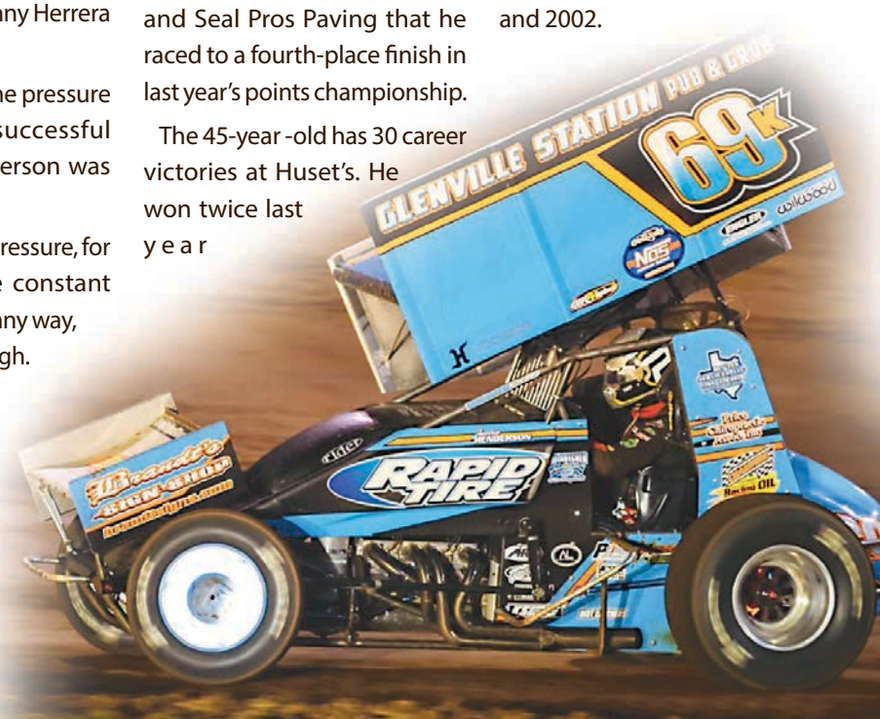
Justin Henderson celebrates in Victory Lane with his son, Maximus, at last year's Huset's season finale on Sept. 3, 2023.

PHOTOS: JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

While he's tackling Knoxville's half-mile on Saturday nights, he'll be back at Huset's this summer in his own No. 83 car sponsored by powersports.com and Seal Pros Paving that he raced to a fourth-place finish in last year's points championship.

The 45-year -old has 30 career victories at Huset's. He won twice last year including the season finale $6,000-to-win Bull Haulers Brawl on Sept. 3.

He's also a two-time 360 sprint car champion at Huset's when he won the title in 2000 and 2002.



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Aydin Lloyd leaves World of Outlaws tour to start own race team

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Brandon native Aydin Lloyd lived out a dream last summer for any sprint car enthusiast. Lloyd joined CJB Motorsports and was the Car Manager for World of Outlaws regular Spencer Bayston.

Touring the country with a World of Outlaws team that finished eighth in championship points with one win and 11 Top 5 finishes was, in Lloyd's words, an "eye-opener."

Lloyd was with the team for the end of the 2022 season and the entire 2023 season. But being on the road from January to October can be a grind, up-and-down the interstate with more than 70 stops along the way.

For 2024, it was time to come home.

Lloyd will be back in Brandon for the entire season this summer, piloting his own 305 RaceSaver sprint car.

The black and red No. 23 will race full time at Huset's and Rapid, and Lloyd said they would make periodic stops at I-90 as well.

The tug at getting behind the wheel, along with personal reasons, is what brought Lloyd home and behind the wheel of a 500 horsepower RaceSaver sprint car.



Aydin Lloyd's tool box is adorned in team racing stickers.

"I love the road, and I learned a lot," Lloyd said. "But when you're on the road, you can't take care of your personal life. There's some stuff I wanted to get done there. And, I really did want to race pretty bad."

Outside of firing Bayston's World of Outlaws car last year, Lloyd said he's never been in a sprint car. When he takes the track this season at Huset's, Rapid and I-90, it will be his first taste of the sport as a competitor.



Aydin Lloyd worked with a World of Outlaws team last year. He's returning to Brandon in 2024 to race his own 305 RaceSaver sprint car.

PHOTOS: TOM A. SAVAGE

But, despite the inherent dangers, Lloyd said he's neither nervous or scared.

"Not at all," he said. "I'm ready to get in and do it. When you're on the road and you hear Spencer talk about the car, about this and that and here's what we need to do to fix it – now I just need to get behind the wheel and recognize those things and correct them as a driver/crew chief."

For as good as it is to be back, Lloyd said leaving the World of Outlaws tour was a difficult one. He still talks with Bayston frequently and said what he learned with CJB has been invaluable in building his own team.

When Lloyd told CJB that he was leaving last year, he said they made an offer for him to stay. He was also offered a similar position with Jason Johnson Racing, another World of Outlaws team with Carson Macedo as its driver.

"That was a hard one to turn down," Lloyd said. "But it was time, time to come home."

Lloyd grew up at the race track. His father, Mark, helped on Mark DeBoer's Late Model Street Stock at Huset's when Lloyd and his brothers, Austin and Collin, were youngsters. Mark died in 2015 at the age of 47 from pancreatic cancer. Aydin was 12 years old.

"Losing dad was obviously hard, but I'm proud to say I got this passion for racing from him," Aydin told Sprint Source originally in 2022. "I want to honor his memory in everything I do, and racing is just another way for me to feel connected to him."



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SHAWN NEISTEADT

Neisteadt is a familiar voice at Huset's

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

When Huset's was sold in 2015 to Chuck Brennan, the speedway underwent a major transformation.

Depending on who you ask, some of those transformations were good, some bad. But there's little argument that stresses were put on the speedway, along with the area racing community, when the future was in flux after Brennan shuttered the doors on the historic race track in May of 2017.

But through it all, there was a constant.

Even during the 2016 season when the facility was rebranded Badlands Motor Speedway to coincide with Brennan's 'Badlands Entertainment' venture in Sioux Falls, there was a reassuring voice on the other end of the public address speakers that greeted fans each weekend to the speedway.

Shawn Neisteadt has been the lead PA announcer at Huset's for many years, and he stayed with it during the Brennan experiment in 2016. When the track reopened in 2020 under the new ownership of Tod Quiring, Neisteadt's voice was the first to greet fans when the speedway welcomed the All-Star Circuit of Champions to Huset's on Aug. 2 of that year.

It all began at Huset's for Neisteadt when he was 15 years old. The Hartford native grew up in a racing family and said he went to his first race when he was just two. But as a teenager, Neisteadt joined friends Brian Rubin and Jared Nytroe to pick up trash every Monday and Tuesday at the speedway.

In an ironic twist, that trio now essentially runs the weekly program at Huset's with Neisteadt announcing, Rubin the race director and Nytroe the lead scorer.

"Three best friends from our teenage years get to hang out on Sundays," Neisteadt said. "We have a good time. We're very serious when it comes to race time at the end of the night, but what more could you ask for."

Picking up the trash put a few extra bucks in his pocket each summer, but it also introduced him to his future wife, Hillary. Hillary is the daughter of Steve Rubin, track owner for 28 years before selling to Brennan in 2015. That family connection obviously helped Neisteadt open some doors in the racing world, most importantly to the PA booth.

When the Rubin family owned Huset's, they also ran Rapid Speedway in Rock Rapids, Iowa, on Friday night and Lake County Speedway in Madison on Saturday night. The three nights kept the family busy, and Neisteadt got his first taste of the racing media world at a young age when he wrote the race recaps for all three tracks.

But it was at age 18 when he got his first crack at the microphone. The week following the famed Knoxville Nationals, Huset's traditionally raced a Gold Cup event on Saturday night. With regular Huset's announcer Mark Tassler committed to Saturday's Gold Cup, the Rubins had a difficulty each year finding an announcer for Lake County on the same night.



PHOTOS: TOM A. SAVAGE

Neisteadt stepped in, and a year later, he was named the full-time announcer in Madison at age 19.

It seemed a good, early fit. He proceeded to attend Southwest Minnesota State where he majored in journalism.

"It did give me a little head start on my collegiate career when I was doing radio because I did have that little bit of experience that got me over the stage freight of a microphone," he said.

Since those humble beginnings in Madison, the 41-year old has now made a significant mark in the sprint car industry as one of the top PA announcers in the business.

That was proven last year when he was asked by DirtVision, the national live streaming service that provides coverage of dirt racing events, to join World of Outlaws announcer Johnny Gibson in the booth to cover the famed Kings Royal event at Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, Ohio. As cool as Huset's is, Eldora is owned by former NASCAR and IndyCar star Tony Stewart and is one of the crown jewels of dirt racing venues in the country.

"To say the least," Neisteadt said when asked if announcing that race was a career highlight. "I was shocked when I got the phone call – you talk about a marquee event in racing history. It was an experience of a lifetime. I still don't know if it was real that I was actually at Eldora announcing the Kings Royal."

Having a Brandon native in the booth at Eldora is something

cont. on page 36

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WOMEN IN RACING

Female drivers will once again race at Huset's in 2024

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

It's no longer a rarity to see women competing in motorsports.

When Janet Guthrie broke the gender barrier by becoming the first woman to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 in 1977, it was a secondary storyline that captured the attention of motorsports fans worldwide.

Since then, 10 different women have raced in the 500 at least once. Former sprint car driver Sarah Fisher has the most starts with nine, and Danica Patrick has the best result when she finished third in 2009.

Today, at local racing tracks from coast-to-coast, it's almost a rarity not to see a female driver competing weekly.

That was the case last year at Huset's, and fans in the area are likely to see it again in 2024.

Here's an update on the five women who competed in the 305 RaceSaver sprint car class at Huset's in 2023:

cont. on page 36



Shayle Bade, Lincoln Neb.

Bade races full time in a 305 RaceSaver sprint car and a 360 sprint car at Eagle Raceway just east of Lincoln, Neb. She made it to Huset's last year four times with a best finish of sixth at the season opener on May 21.

The 31-year-old has a wealth of experience in a race car, starting in a go-kart at age seven. She's won feature events in a sprint car at Eagle, and said she'll be back to Huset's this summer to try and do the same in Brandon.

Last season was her first visit to Huset's, and she said it was love at first sight.

"After we went up there that first time, I was addicted," she said. "I told my husband that we might just have to put our house up for sale and move up here. It is such a fun track and an awesome facility."

Bade and her co-team-owner husband have two RaceSaver sprint cars ready to go this year. The second is traditionally a back-up for her in case they have problems on Saturday night at Eagle. This year, the second car has been designated a 'Huset's car' and will be waiting on Sunday morning to make the trek to Brandon.

"When we come home from Eagle on Saturday night, the other trailer will be ready to go and we can wake up in the morning and head straight to Huset's," she said. "I'm pretty excited."



Bayley Ballenger, Harrisburg S.D.

Ballenger is an 18-year-old senior at Harrisburg High School who will be racing her fourth season full time this summer. Last year she finished 11th in championship points in the RaceSaver class with one Top 5 finish.

This year will also mark the first time she'll make the leap up in horsepower, as she'll tackle at 360 sprint car occasionally at other area tracks.

"I think it's going to teach me a lot," she said of the horsepower jump. "And then when I get back in my 305 I can apply the experience. I'm excited to see a big difference."

Ballenger is the daughter of longtime sprint car driver and three-time Huset's track champion Dusty Ballenger. Dusty has 30 career victories at Huset's, and Bayley has clearly been around the sport her entire life.

She said she'd like to race cars for a living, but is also working towards a marketing degree from Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls.

"I would love to be a race car driver for a career, but that's something for a different breed, that's for sure," she said. "I'm finding that's not something you can just go to school for or do right off the bat. So, it's always good to have a Plan B."



Gracyn Masur, Brandon S.D.

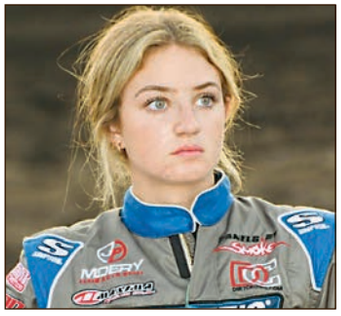
Like Ballenger, Masur will be back in 2024 for a full time season at Huset's. The freshman at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix said she'll be back in Brandon in time for the season-opener on May 12.

This will be Masur's third season in a sprint car. Last year she finished 23rd in championship points with a best finish of 17th on June 11. Since her rookie season in 2022, Masur said she's been gaining confidence and experience and is excited about this summer at Huset's.

"I definitely feel like I'm getting more comfortable and getting to know my car more which gives me the confidence to genuinely race it on that track," she said.

She qualified for just one A feature last year, and was within a half-a-lap of doing it again later in the season, but rode out a series of flips down the back stretch while running third in her heat race.

"I was more disappointed and upset than scared because it ruined my chances of making it into the A Main that night," she said. "But it was a good learning experience. It showed me to relax and breathe and work towards it."



Elizabeth Phillips, Bixby Okla.

Phillips is a freshman at the University of Oklahoma but said she and her team will make time to travel once her obligations with the Sooners are complete.

Last year, she made one visit to Huset's where she finished fifth in the B feature on Aug. 27. She came to Huset's twice in 2022 and had a best finish of 10th at the season-opener on May 8.

The 19-year old said her team will likely be back to Brandon this summer, mostly because of the experience and accommodations.

"We're one of the few 305 teams in the Midwest that travels as broadly as we do. People always ask what we think of the track, and I tell them I love it there," she said. "From the first time we went up there, they made us feel at home, and that was welcoming because sometimes when you go to a track you kind of feel like an outlier. But it's been like that every week that we've gone. It's been nothing short of amazing."

PHOTOS: BALLENGER, PHILLIPS AND MASUR - JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTO.COM
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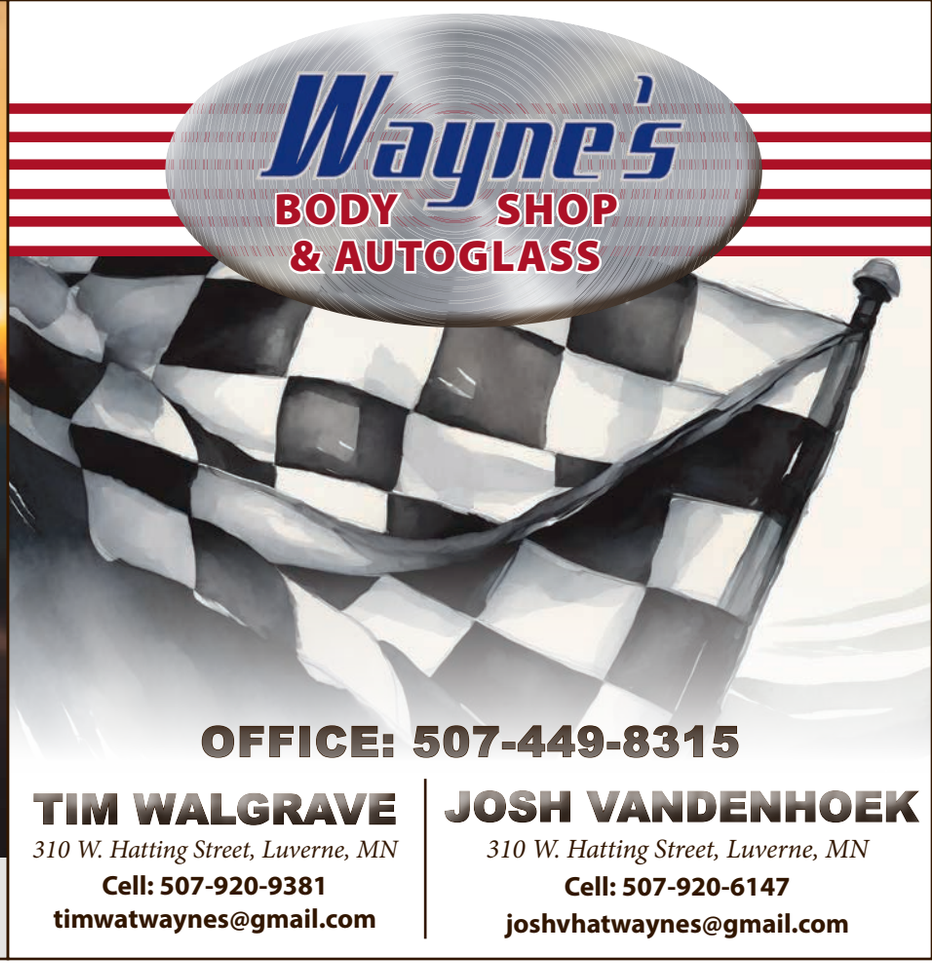

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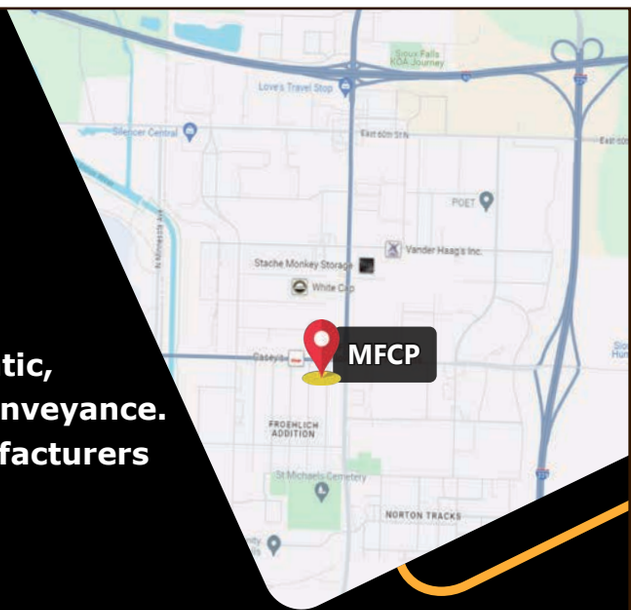

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Preserving Huset's history through a lens

For five decades, Kjergaard has been capturing the races

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

If you've seen television highlights of Huset's over the last several decades, it's a near guarantee that Kevin Kjergaard shot it.

Kjergaard grew up in Rowena and spent much of time at Huset's as a youngster. His father, Marv, owned a car with Kenny Kuhnert. Kuhnert was later hired by legendary track promoter Fred Buckmiller to handle the maintenance at the track.

Through his father's friendship with Kuhnert, Buckmiller hired Kjergaard at age 10 to pick up trash and mow the grass every Monday during the summer. It wasn't a bad gig for a 10 year old, as Kjergaard received $5 that was often times spent at lunch at the Huset's Corner gas station near the track.

"Fred was so good to me," Kjergaard said. "On Sundays at the races, me and my brothers and sisters got a hot dog and drink for free from Fred, and that was a big deal."

Needless to say, the racing bug bit Kjergaard at a young age. When he was 16 years old, Buckmiller made him the official track videographer.

Kjergaard kept that title at the track until 2015 when Huset's was sold to Chuck Brennan, who built a new production team.

Kjergaard started working at KSFY TV at age 16 and was later hired by KELO TV as a videographer. He's been at KELO for 35 and continues to be a fixture at Huset's on Sunday nights bringing highlights to area race fans every Monday.

And much of that time in the Huset's infield or on the midway in the grandstands is on Kjergaard's dime. But he said he didn't mind because he loves the sport, and it also opened many doors in the industry.

"Both KSFY and KELO were great to me," he said. "They said I could use their equipment and I could have the video."

Because he was able to keep the video, Kjergaard made a national name for himself when he produced the 'Up and Over' video series. He also produced the documentary about Doug Wolfgang's return to racing following a bad crash in 1992.

But it was in 1982 when Kjergaard got the attention of national broadcasts when legendary motorsports journalist Dave Despain reached out. Because Kjergaard's interest in racing reached outside of Brandon, Despain was interested in Kjergaard's extensive coverage of the Knoxville Nationals.

Despain's weekly show, Motorweek Illustrated, on nationally-syndicated WTBS hosted by seven-time Indianapolis 500 starter Lyn St. James, broadcast Kjergaard's coverage of the Nationals.



Kevin Kjergaard was named Huset's Speedway's track videographer at age 16. He's become nationally recognized in the industry ever since. SUBMITTED

His reputation as a leading videographer in the industry grew, and Kjergaard was at many World of Outlaw events around the area. His work appeared often on ESPN's Speedweek hosted by another pair of legendary motorsports journalists in Bob Jenkins and Larry Nuber.

"I never thought of media people going in there. When I was told, I thought it was just for drivers.

Because of his years of shooting motorsports, Kjergaard's war chest of historical footage is monumental. Not only does he have World of Outlaws and Knoxville history in his possession, he's got 38 end-of-year Huset's Speedway banquets. At age 18, Buckmiller gave him old Huset's footage from the 1950s and 60s that Kjergaard restored.

Since Huset's opened in 1954, Kjergaard has most of the historical footage that still exists.

Now 62 years old, Kjergaard can still be found on Sunday nights at Huset's as he helps produce the DirtVision broadcast each week. Because of his efforts in preserving the track's history, Kjergaard was inducted into the Huset's Hall of Fame in 2014.

"I was pretty shocked," he said of his induction. "I never thought of media people going in there. When I was told, I thought it was just for drivers. But Captain 11 (Dave Dedrick – Class of 2003) and Tom Savage (Class of 2008) were guys that were bigger than life. I felt a little out of place. But now when I see my name up there, I feel like I'm part of that place."

KEVIN KJERGAARD

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Lucas Oil Late Models return in 2024

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Huset's tried something new last year when they brought in the Lucas Oil Late Models for the three-night Silver Dollar Nationals.

And clearly, they found something in the event.

For several years, the Silver Dollar Nationals were held at I-80 Speedway in Greenwood, Neb. After that race track closed at the end of the 2022 season, Huset's was the beneficiary of absorbing the massive event that pays $53,000 to the winner.

This year will be the 14th annual event, scheduled for Huset's from July 18-20.

The Lucas Oil Late Models are unique to Huset's and this area. The series features the top late model drivers in the country. They travel the country and race from February to October, and the stop at Huset's in July has become a highlight.

Since Huset's began racing sprint cars in 1980, the track has become nationally known for that style of racing. Although full-bodied cars have been racing at Huset's for decades, and the weekly Late Model Street Stock show continues to be one of the best each week, the popularity of the sport has never reached that of sprint cars at Huset's.

But last year's event brought in big crowds, making the decision for series and track officials to make the return in 2024.

Last year's event was tweaked a bit because the second night of the three-day show was lost to rain. Therefore, Friday's program was moved to Saturday afternoon, and that was followed by the feature events on Saturday night.

"Running a double program on Saturday afternoon and Saturday night made for a long day," Huset's General Manager Doug Johnson said.

This year's format will be a little different. In years' past, the Silver Dollar Nationals ran their Thursday night program as a standalone show and Friday's races were strictly heat races with features on Saturday night.

In 2024, the Thursday and Friday events will both be full shows that will determine Saturday night's feature lineups.

"I think that will give fans more to come and watch," Johnson said of having full qualifying nights with full programs on Thursday and Friday.

Although late model racing is fairly unique to fans in Sioux Falls, it's wildly popular in other parts around the metro area. Johnson said the speedway saw a large increase in fans from Omaha, Watertown and Huron, where late model cars race regularly.

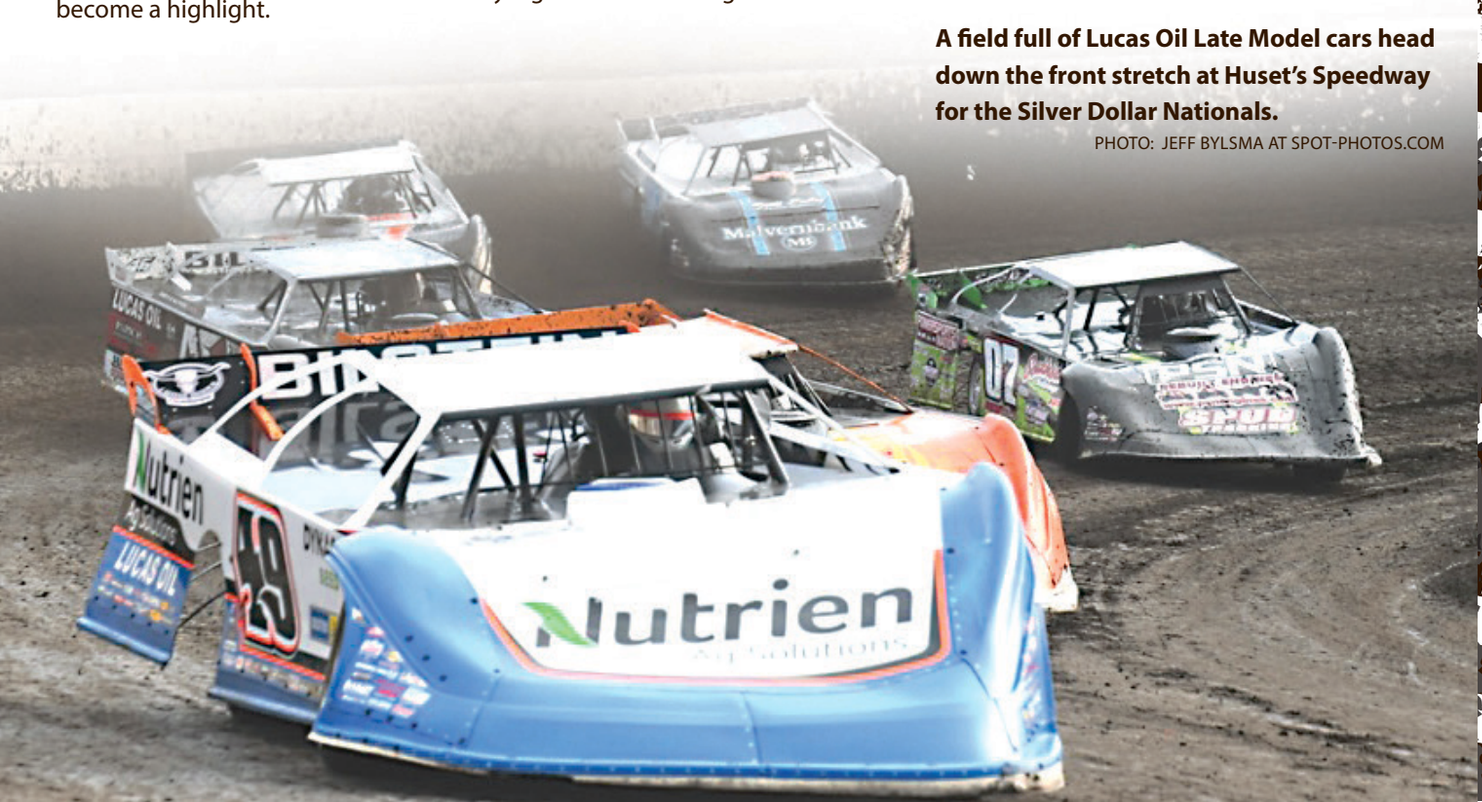
"That's where we saw a majority of our ticket sales from," he said. "It was a completely different crowd."

The support series for the Silver Dollar Nationals will be the South Dakota-based Tri-State Late Models, and the Omaha-based Super Late Model Racing Series.

Brandon Sheppard won last year's $53,000 pay day. The New Berlin, Ill., native led wire-to-wire in the 80-lap race. He is currently seventh in championship points in the series.

Although he led the entire way, he was in a three-way battle for the final 20 laps with Bobby Pierce of Oakwood, Ill., and Hudson O'Neal of Martinsville, Ind. The three ran nearly side-by-side the final quarter of the race.

"We were battling there and that's what you get when we run short tracks," Sheppard said. "This place was awesome."

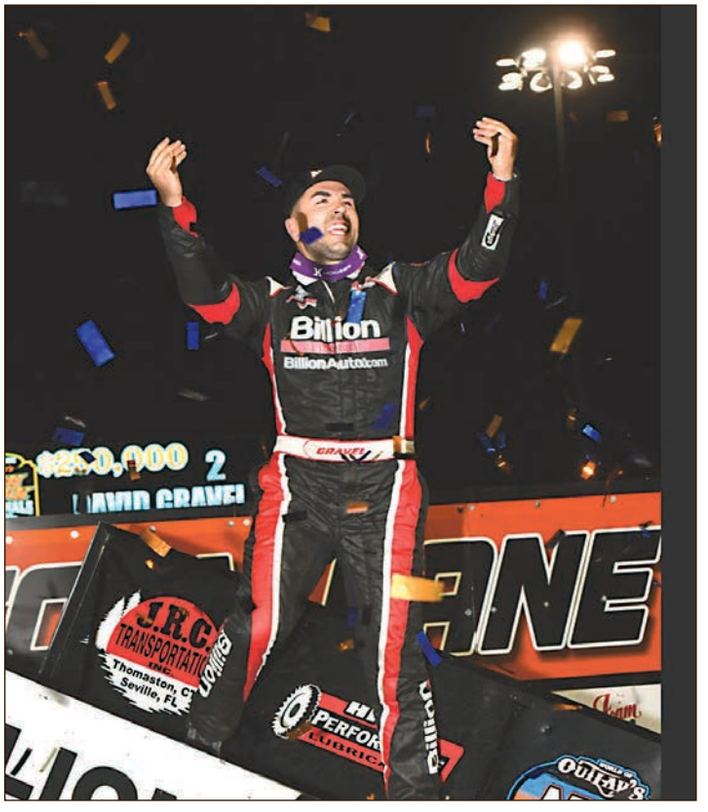


A field full of Lucas Oil Late Model cars head down the front stretch at Huset's Speedway for the Silver Dollar Nationals.
PHOTO: JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM



HIGH BANKS
UPDATED FORMAT

Big crowds expected again as High Bank Nationals format updated



David Gravel celebrates his $250,000 in Victory Lane after winning last year's Huset's High Bank Nationals on Saturday, June 24, 2023. PHOTOS: JEFF BYLSMA AT SPOT-PHOTOS.COM

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Last year's Huset's High Bank Nationals made headlines from coast-to-coast in the motorsports world.

From Daytona to Indianapolis, all eyes were glued to Brandon from June 21-24 as the High Bank Nationals paid $250,000 to the winner, the largest pay day in World of Outlaws history.

The event brought in some of the biggest names in motorsports, including former NASCAR, Daytona 500 and two-time Knoxville Nationals champion Kyle Larson. But he wasn't alone. As a sanctioned World of Outlaws event, the top sprint car drivers in the world descended upon Brandon for the four-day show.

For 2024, Huset's and World of Outlaws officials have tweaked the format in hopes of drawing bigger crowds on Wednesday and Thursday. Saturday night's event last year was packed and announced as the largest crowd in the speedway's 70-year history. Although there's no way to quantify that statistic, it's likely quite true as the grandstands and suites were full from end-to-end.

Last year, the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night events were all the same format with $20,000 to the winner. Of those three qualifying nights, teams were able to throw out their worst of the three nights. Their two best nights were used to determine starting positions for Saturday night's main event.

For 2024, the event will still be four days, but it's been split into two mini events. Teams will qualify on Wednesday and will again race for $20,000. Wednesday's qualifying sets the starting positions for Thursday, with $100,000 to the winner. Those first two days are scheduled for June 19-20 and are being called the Huset's High Bank Hustle.

Friday's qualifying night to determine Saturday's starting lineup will pay $20,000 to the winner, just like in 2023. Saturday's payout is again a World of Outlaws record at $250,000 to the winner.

"It's really two separate shows. If you have a bad night, you still have a chance to rebound and make really good money throughout the week."

"The race teams like it," said Huset's General Manager Doug Johnson. "It's really two separate shows. If you have a bad night, you still have a chance to rebound and make really good money throughout the week."

With massive crowds coming to Brandon for the four-day show, track officials said they are again working with the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce.

Like last year, Chamber Executive Director Rachael Neiman said they will be putting packets together for speedway campers with information about everything Brandon has to offer.

Last year, vouchers to the Brandon Swimming Pool were given out in each packet.

"The swimming pool was very busy last year," Neiman said of the High Banks week. "It's hard to say if they were Huset's attendees or just people from town, but it was a busy week at the pool."

Also like last year, speedway officials will be hosting a golf tournament with High Banks drivers on Tuesday. That day will also include a Fan Fest at the track and a hog roast that evening before racing commences on Wednesday.

Last year's Fan Fest was also heavily attended throughout the day on Tuesday.

"We want to encourage everyone in town to stay local and do their spending while they're here," Neiman said. "We'll definitely be putting together a packet to remind them of all the amenities that we have here in our community."

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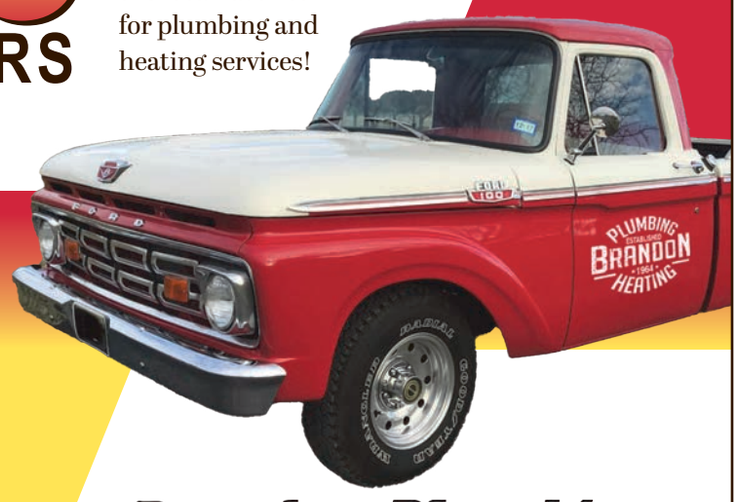

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NEW FORMAT FOR SUNDAY NIGHTS

Huset's tweaks 2024 format in effort to end by 10 p.m.

Tom A. Savage
Contributing writer

Huset's Speedway enters its 67th season of competition in 2024. The track opened in 1954, but no races were run in 1956, 1957, 2018 and 2019 for various reasons.

Over that 67-year run, the format has essentially remained the same. But things are being tweaked just a bit for the 2024 season.

Typically, the night's final race was the highlighted show, or the biggest class on the format. For the last 40-plus years, that's been the 410 sprint cars, which ended the night of racing that included several other classes.

In an effort to have the races conclude by 10 p.m. this season, track officials are changing the format, and part of that is the schedule of events.

Unlike in previous years, the final feature races this season will go in the order of Late Model Street Stocks, 410 sprint cars, and the nights' finale will be the 305 RaceSaver sprint cars.

"Even if we have the 410s completed by 10 p.m., that's really my goal to have the main event over by that time," said Huset's General Manager Doug Johnson. "It's the biggest thing I hear in the offseason: 'Your races take too long.'"

Although new to Huset's, tweaking sporting formats in respect to time is nothing new. In 2023, Major League Baseball implemented a pitch clock to speed up the length of games. It worked. According to MLB, games in 2023 were shortened by 26 minutes versus 2022. An average MLB game now lasts an average of 2:35.

The attempt to get things finished earlier has been met with approval from the city.

"It's terrific. Huset's has been great for the community," said Brandon Mayor Harry Buck. "They do a terrific job and if they're trying to move their program up a little bit, I think it makes a lot of sense and I congratulate them for that. I think it's a good move."

Buck said even though the races have gone past 10 p.m. in previous years, the city rarely hears complaints from the community. He said he doesn't personally remember the last time he received one.

cont. on page 36



Drivers from the 410 sprint car class at the Redraw to determine starting positions for the feature event during intermission on June 18, 2023.

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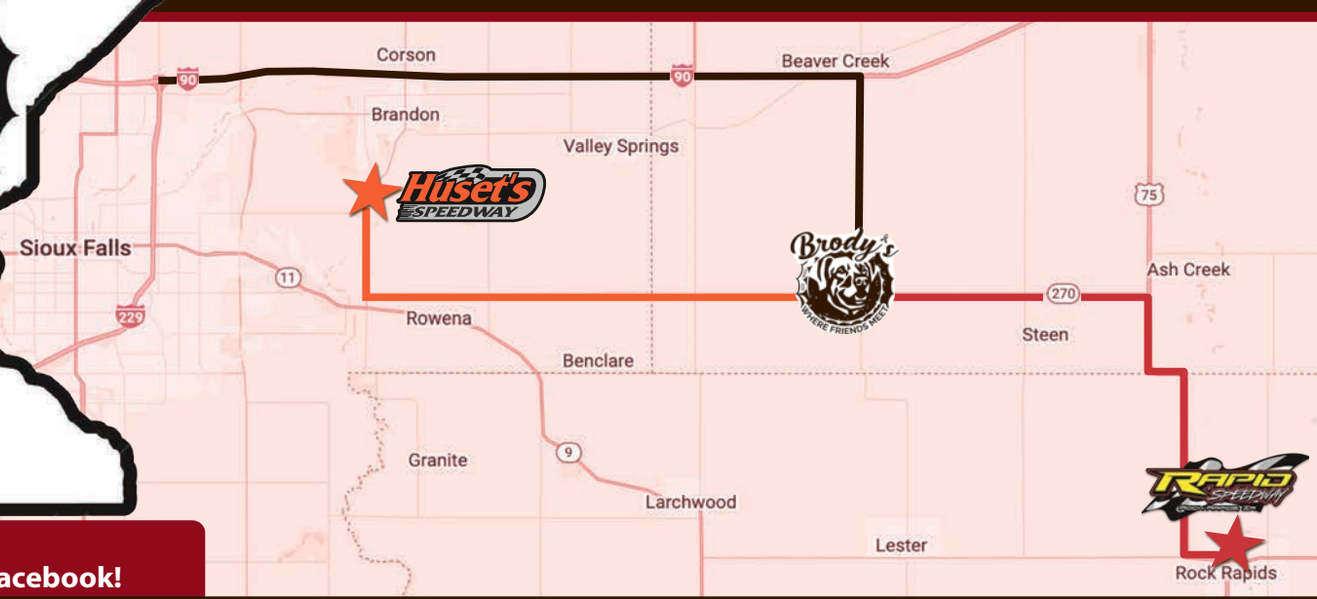

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Female drivers will once again race at Huset's

(continued from page 26)



Madison Miller, Vail, Iowa

22-year old Madison Miller made the three-hour trek from Vail, Iowa to Huset's just once last year. She finished 15th on May 29 and said she'd like to make it back to Brandon in 2024.

Although last year was her first time competing at Huset's, she said she'd been to the facility previously as a fan in the stands.

"I love it up there. I wish it were closer," she said. "When you're watching, I guess it can look scary, but it's really not once you get out there."

This summer will be her fourth season in a 305 RaceSaver sprint car. She races weekly at Crawford County Speedway in Denison, Iowa. Her father, Joe Miller, raced for over 30 years in a sprint car and has also turned laps at Huset's.

Neisteadt is a familiar voice at Huset's

(continued from page 24)

all Huset's fans can be proud of. But an even more heroic effort from that weekend was Neisteadt's effort to get back to Huset's in time for Sunday's weekly races.

The Kings Royal was on Saturday, July 15. After lengthy rain showers delayed the show, officials were able to complete the race with Donny Schatz winning the event.

"There was a late day thunderstorm and there was talk of postponing it until Sunday, which would have put me in a pretty bad place," Neisteadt said.

But they got it in, and Neisteadt got back to his hotel and slept for an hour before heading to the airport in Troy, Ohio. He made his connection through Chicago and got back to Sioux Falls Sunday morning. He watched his son, Hayden, play a state championship baseball game on his phone before eventually making it to Huset's at 3:30 on race day, Sunday, July 16.

With the invitation to announce at Eldora, Neisteadt clearly has the attention and respect of racing promoters around the country.

And it all started at Huset's, picking up trash as a teenager.

Now, with seemingly many years ahead of him in the booth, it's not a stretch to imagine him making an even bigger impact on the sport and profession in the future.

But having lofty dreams and goals also comes with the realization that making a living as a sprint car announcer comes with personal setbacks as well. Being on the road, chasing race cars around the country for nine months out of the year is a grind. The professionals who make a living at it now have very little family strings attached.

With a wife and 13-year-old at home who's active in traveling baseball each summer, sticking around Brandon is the safe bet.

"That's the hardest part," Neisteadt said. "You're trying to balance family life with what really is a hobby for you on the side. There were weekends where I simply couldn't go to all of my son's baseball tournaments because I was committed to announcing. I won't say that the day won't come where I'd take a bigger role and do this more as a living, but right now I'm really happy with where I am. But if the right opportunity would present itself, you'd be a fool not to explore the possibility."

Huset's tweaks 2024 format

(continued from page 34)

Johnson said plans to move the program along were put into place in the off-season and they will be ready to implement from the start of the season.

"I've been stressing it with all of our employees and officials," he said. "I just think people's attention span – a three-hour window is pushing it in any sport."

The start time will remain the same throughout the season. In previous season's that time fluctuated as the season progressed.

"In the past, when we got to June, we pushed our start time back just because school's out, and the heat of the day," Johnson said. "But we're going to keep our start time consistent throughout the year this year."

This year hot laps will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the 410 sprint car qualifications to follow. The opening ceremonies will commence at 7:30 p.m. That schedule will remain the same throughout the entire summer.

Brandon Valley Journal

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Established 2017
1404 E. Cedar St. - P.O. Box 842
Brandon, SD 57005
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8 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays

Subscription rates
*By mail in Minnehaha County, **$60.53** (tax included) for 52 weeks, out-of-county, **$79.65** (tax included), or online only, **$55.22**. For both print and online, in-county is **$84.60** and out-of-county is **$109.39**.*

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***Brandon Valley Journal** is published weekly by Brandon Valley Media Group, LLC, 1404 E Cedar St., Brandon, S.D. 57005. Periodicals postage paid at Brandon, S.D., and strives to publish accurate information; however, the publisher cannot be held responsible for consequences resulting from errors or omissions. All content is the property of Brandon Valley Media Group, LLC, and cannot be used, copied or reproduced without permission of the publisher.*
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