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Talladega Superspeedway: Driver Scott Stenzel, “Surrounded by a Winning Team”

Building a winning team has been the main focus of the 2010 season. The *Yellow Stripes Making the Driver* program has allowed ARCA Driver, Scott Stenzel, the opportunity to work with the best in the industry as he makes his superspeedway debut in Talladega.



“We have surrounded Scott with a winning team full of Veterans. Our goal is that one day we hope Scott will be that elite driver you hear about every weekend in the Cup and Nationwide series.” John Baxter, Yellow Stripes Making the Driver Series Executive Producer.

Scott, under the watchful eye of crew chief/team owner, Jeff Spraker, took full advantage of the March 23rd Test Session to shake down the #42 Yellow Stripes Making the Driver Ford Fusion.

Under the hood, a Roush/Yates prepared engine has been tagged to provide all the necessary horsepower for Scott and Team to conquer the venerable high banks of Talladega as the #42 Ford Fusion aims to garner a top Five Finish in the ARCA/ReMax 250. The race is scheduled to take place Friday, April 23rd with LIVE telecast on SPEED TV at 5:00 PM EST.

Race-day at Talladega will see Jeff Straker manning the war wagon as Crew Chief / Team Owner for the Yellow Stripes Ford Fusion. Jeff has over 20 years winning experience as both driver

and car owner in NASCAR® as well as ARCA.

“Testing at Talladega was most important for Scott. He did a great job giving feedback for his first time at the superspeedway,” Jeff commented. “We are going to do everything we can to help Scott do well during the race. He has a lot of people in his corner and we want the best for him.”

Nick Ramey, from Roush/Yates Engines, has leant his considerable expertise to the Yellow Stripes team to make sure that the #42 Ford Fusion engine will lay some serious horsepower onto the ‘Dega superspeedway pavement.

Greg Newman, father to NASCAR Driver Ryan Newman, was spotter for Ryan’s historic victory at the Daytona 500. Greg will be manning the spotter stand for Scott’s assault on Talladega.

Charlie Patterson with NexGen Motorsports has been developing Scott’s career over the last few years, “Working with Scott has a lot of the qualities similar to other drivers I have worked with, like Ryan Newman, and I believe Scott is ready to make it big in the racing world.”

“Scott is one of the most impressive young drivers I’ve seen in a long time,” says Dave Bowman, creator of *Two Guys Garage* and *Shade Tree Mechanic* seen on SPEED TV. “He is the complete package. He is a very talented driver and is adept at representing a sponsor’s interests both on and off the race track. The Yellow Strips television series tells his story about the struggle in making it in stock car racing and is a brilliantly crafted.”

“I’m really excited about returning to superspeedway racing. After not making the field at Daytona, we learned a lot, not just as a team but as a driver, too.” Scott stated regarding the upcoming race, “My main goal is to stay focused, out of trouble and be as consistent as possible. Hopefully we’ll have a solid finish and look good to our fans and sponsors.”

BIO: This is the story of driver-athlete, Scott Stenzel, and the incredible journey he has made to compete in the ARCA/ReMax 250.

Scott grew up in Minnesota’s rugged farming country. Even though that part of the world is considered remote, there was a small dirt track in the next-door neighbor’s backyard where Scott and his friends would race four-wheelers, go-karts, dirt bikes; even some old cars that they found in the junkyard. At a very early age, Scott Stenzel found his calling.

At age 16 he finally met the age requirement to enter into the FASCAR racing league. As the Stenzel family budget couldn’t support a racing career, Scott knew the only way he could make it in racing was to earn it for himself. So, he worked as many jobs as he could find. Part-time shelf stocker at a grocery store, part-time laborer for his father’s marine removal and installation service, night shifts at a food and dairy plant, all of which allowed Scott to save up enough money to get his foot in the door.

During his high school years Scott assembled three race cars, one for dirt and two for pavement. He did it with his own money, donated parts, the help of his friends and family, and a handful of local sponsors.

His first official sponsor was a website design company that paid for his entire third season of Enduro racing. The Enduro car was a car similar to the "stock" car of the early 80s. He would race these cars each weekend for 250 laps. The two tracks he raced at during this time were I-94 Raceway in Sauk Center and Fergus Falls Raceway.

During the winter months Scott became fully involved with professional snowboarding. Tying for second in the 1998 Division Championships, snowboarding was the perfect outlet for Scott. As a highly trained and active athlete, Scott needed the adrenaline rush of competition during the auto racing off-season.

But, in 1999 it all came to a halt. Graduating high school with honors and a nearly perfect 3.97 GPA, Scott’s academic world had just started to open up and he needed to take full advantage of this opportunity. Even though he had accumulated over four years of karting experience, one year of dirt track experience, two years of pavement experience, and six years of snowboarding, Scott sold his racing cars, gear – everything but his driving suit. He also sold all his snowboarding equipment as well.

With the money from liquidation in hand, he left Minnesota and the local racing scene to attend school at North Dakota State University - Fargo, North Dakota, Valencia Community College - Orlando, Florida, and Full Sail Real World Education - Orlando, Florida.

After graduation Scott started his own advertising and marketing company, Digi Craft, specializing in print, web and video multimedia services. Clients include Universal Orlando Resort, Disney Adventures Magazine, National Retail Federation and more. In fact, it is through his company that Scott has been able to provide marketing services to the two largest racing events in America, the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500.

It was at a recent Daytona 500 that Scott met NexGen president and motorsports agent, Charlie Patterson. Over the course of that SpeedWeek, they shared several conversations to discover Scott still had the desire to compete on the track. Now, the question was does he still have the skill. So, Charlie set-up a meeting with legendary driver coach and school owner, Mike Loesher at Finishline Racing School.

After three days of testing under Mike's watchful eye, Scott was the fastest and most consistent driver in his class. The stopwatch never lies. It was at that point that Patterson felt comfortable moving Scott towards the ARCA Series and its superspeedway program. It was also around this time that Scott and Charlie started sharing an idea for a sport-based reality show that follows the career of an aspiring driver.

'Yellow Stripes: Making the Driver' was soon born. Now, with two episodes already in the can and with the guidance of executive producer, Dave Bowman, (Shadetree Mechanic, Two Guys Garage, Crank & Chrome), the show looks to make the mainstream line-up at a major cable network.

In preparation for 2010, Scott drove a Bob Schacht prepared car in the December '09 Daytona test for ARCA drivers and teams. The test session was a complete success and Scott earned his license with full series approval for the upcoming season.

When "Yellow Stripes: Making the Driver" agreed to sponsor his car, Scott then approached Jeff Spraker Racing to finalize his ARCA assault. Jeff and his crew have been working on preparing Scott's speedway car, purchased from the Wood Brothers and powered by a Roush/Yates motor.

When asked about preparing for the upcoming event, Scott commented, "I can't thank everyone enough for helping out a rookie driver. Jeff Spraker and his skilled crew have been pulling extra duty to get me and the Yellow Stripes #42 Ford Fusion ready for the superspeedway."

Who says a small town farm boy can't achieve all his dreams. All it takes is a lot of tenacity, talent, dedication and the unquenchable need for speed. Scott Stenzel is well on his way to finally realizing his lifelong goal: to Compete and Win back his racing career.

ARCA RE/MAX 250 at Talladega Superspeedway Schedule:

Thursday, April 22nd

Practice 11:00AM - 2:00PM EST

Qualifying Presented by Ansell 6:05PM EST

Friday, April 23rd

Practice 10:30AM - 11:15AM EST

Start of the Talladega ARCA 250 (250 miles / 94 laps) 5:00PM EST

For more information please visit: www.makingthedriver.com

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