

1983 Sportsman Champion—DuWayne Middlebrook #45



DuWayne Middlebrook, 1983 Track Champion Sportsman Division

He made it two straight!!!! Congratulations to DuWayne Middlebrook, our 1982 and now 1983 Track Champion.

DuWayne was born August 22, 1958, in Prattville, Alabama, which he still calls home. He is single, 5'9" and weighs 150 lbs. He lives with proud mom and dad, Mr. and Mrs. James Middlebrook and according to dad, DuWayne has two interests—racing and chasing. Racing cars and chasing girls.

James Middlebrook spoke proudly of his son and laughs a little, too, recalling DuWayne's first season in 1980. Starting his racing career in the Street Division a M.I.S. in a 1970 Roadrunner. James said that they were not awful . . . they were pathetic. In 1981 DuWayne changed to a Plymouth Duster and did much better as his driving skills improved. In 1982, DuWayne drove the Duster to the track championship.

DuWayne moved up to the Sportsman Division for the 1983 season driving a 1972 Nova. In the opening race, DuWayne qualified with a 22.79 run. (Dad said the car wasn't running right.) In the first 50 lap feature No. 45 started running hot after 26 laps and he had to drop out of the race. In the second feature, DuWayne came back to finish fourth after losing a battle with the guard rail coming out of turn 3. From there, DuWayne kept coming back, fighting all the luck of cars, racing and all the heated competition and battles. He had his eyes set on two straight championships, and with the determination of a champion, stayed on top to become No. 1 again in 1983.

After three races in the 1984 season, DuWayne is still looking for his first victory . . . but, he doesn't give up!!! Keep your eyes on No. 45!!! . . . he may make it three in a row.

Richard Petty has always been DuWayne's racing idol. He flies the Petty colors, but changed the No. 43 to No. 45. The Middlebrooks build their own race cars in their spare time. DuWayne works with his dad at H & M Trailer Repair . . . repairing trailers of all sizes.

Richard Petty would be proud of you, DuWayne . . . and so are we!!!