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Bryant Goldsmith-His Future's So Bright-----

Bryant Goldsmith is the type of young man you hope your daughter will bring home one day. Nice looking, hard working, responsible, and intelligent. He's a little shy, and he respects his parents too. His grandmother loves him, even his sister likes him. So what is wrong with this 17 year old from Iowa? Well, he does like fast cars. Very fast cars. Very expensive fast cars. But, no street racing for Bryant. He does his racing on Midwest dirt ovals, in a 2006 Swartz chassis super late model.

Goldsmith is in his sixth year of racing-four years in karts, and two in powerful late models. As an 11 year old Bryant raced karts locally. By his third year in the karts, he started winning nationals, and the Goldsmith trophy case includes mementoes from KART, IKF Dirt(And) Asphalt, and WKA championships. Experienced kart racer and engine builder Tom Rayl was Goldsmith's mentor in kart racing. "People do not understand how unbelievably difficult it is to win a kart national," said Rayl. That Bryant won multiple nationals says a lot about his talent."

Super late models from karts is quite a jump for anyone, but Bryant's mother Debbie was confident the move would be successful. "Bryant didn't win every kart race he entered, but he won his share. More important, he was always smooth and consistent. He never gets upset, he drives the car to its limit, but doesn't overdrive it. We knew he would be able to make the transition as long as he tried his best and kept learning." Rayl added "Kart really helped Bryant. He got a feel for what the car was doing under him, and he is transferring that to stock cars."

Growing up in rural Corning, Bryant spent his summer Saturday nights at the Adams County Speedway. His hero was Kyle Berck. In those days, the Marquette Missile was racing weekly at ACS, and Bryant got to know Kyle on a personal level. And Kyle became an important advisor for the Goldsmith's as the Iowa youth moved to the horsepower monster late models.

Similarities between Berck and Goldsmith are almost eerie. Both began racing at an early age, were highly successful kart racers, and began racing stock cars before most youth get their first license. Like many farmers' sons, both are mechanically inclined. The Bercks and Goldsmiths farm large chunks of fertile Midwest soil, and though the Goldsmith's do not raise animals, they do plant 5,000 acres of corn and beans. Kyle and Bryant know the value of hard work, and farming, not racing, is the priority. "I trust Bryant totally with our farm equipment," stated father Todd Goldsmith. "Bryant showed at an early age that

he could handle any piece of machinery, including combines, and four wheel drive tractors pulling grain carts.”

Berck invited the Goldsmiths to visit him when he raced in Arizona in January, 2005. “Kyle rented a track one day to do some testing, and promised to put Bryant behind the wheel of a late model” stated Todd Goldsmith. “It was a long day, but Bryant got in the car for a few laps, his first laps ever driving a super late model.” Although his on track time was limited, Goldsmith was able to watch Berck’s hands-on approach to racing, and note how the car reacted to changes made in the pits. “It was really a valuable session for Bryant,” noted Todd. “Me too.”

The Goldsmiths bought a 2003 Rocket chassis from Berck for their first year of racing. Early season 2005 was a struggle for the Goldsmiths. “Ron Brown is the tech guy on our crew, and we simply could not have made it to the track every Saturday and Sunday without him,” said Bryant’s mom Debbie. “That remains so. He helps build the cars, helps with weekly maintenance and fixing the car, and works in the pits with us on Saturdays and Sundays.” Bryant learned and improved, and finished the year with 3 top fives, 10 top 10’s in 35 starts. He finished in the top ten in points at ACS. And, Midwest racing legend Al Humphrey took an interest in the Goldsmith program, and began working with them at I-80 Speedway. With two top Midwest late model pilots advising Bryant, the Goldsmiths admit their learning curve is greatly accelerated. “We talk to Kyle weekly, and having Al in our pits is super,” commented Goldsmith. “With Al you know you are going to get a straight answer based on his experience, so if we bounce an idea off him, and he doesn’t think we should try it, we know we need to do something different.”

Humphrey believes Goldsmith has great potential as a driver. “He is just 17, so you always wonder, but I think you are going to be reading about Bryant in the papers for a long time,” stated the WDRL driver. “He is smooth and doesn’t abuse his or anyone else’s equipment. The thing with Bryant is sometimes you can’t tell how a car is working. It can be junk, but he adapts, and makes it work. In a July race at I-80 Speedway he finished 4th. I told him if I had the same car I probably would have finished 15th.”

Berck offers advice on more than just chassis set-up. “Kyle convinced us that the IMCA Spec motor was the way to go because it gives us some options that other motors don’t,” mentioned Todd. “Wegner built the motor, but because of distance, Tom Rayl maintains it. We are penalized with having to have 40 pounds on the nose at the two NASCAR tracks, but we could run any IMCA late model track, as well as the Deery Brothers tour.”

And Berck has discussed tour racing with the Goldsmiths. “Kyle said we should travel with experience,” stated Goldsmith. “What he meant is we should

continue getting the experience we are at Adams County Speedway and I-80 Speedway, and hit some open shows too, as we gain experience.” In the future, Goldsmith will have the opportunity to race in one or more of five Midwest tours, and will want to run for Rookie of The Year in whatever tour he might choose. Berck’s advice was that Bryant should not use up his rookie eligibility running too many events in any tour.

Hitting open shows any distance from Corning is not easy for the Goldsmiths. The farming season and racing season are the same in Iowa, and with 5,000 acres to tend to, time away from home comes at a premium. “I might not be able to go to an open show,” stated Todd, “but Bryant, Debbie, and the crew can. They know what it takes.” Crew members on the Goldsmith racing team, in addition to Ron Brown, include Brent Amdor, Austin Brandt, and Jade Walter.

While the 2005 season was one of learning, Bryant has become very competitive two tough NASCAR tracks. With a year of experience and the Swartz chassis more to his liking, Goldsmith is 4th in points at ACS and 7th at I-80 Speedway-racing against the likes of the Kosiski and Zeitner families, drivers with more years of racing experience than Bryant has on this earth. In 19 starts at the two NASCAR dirt ovals, Goldsmith has 11 top five finishes, 15 top tens. What are Bryant’s thoughts racing against NASCAR champions Joe and Ed Kosiski and Chris Spieker? “Well, if they are passing me, I’m trying to figure out a different line to run,” he stated. The names and resumes don’t intimidate the youngster.

Goldsmith’s efforts have impressed many fans this year, plus he has his own personal cheerleading squad, with Grandmother Barb Adams, sister Brooke, and girl friend Kally Johnston leaving no doubt who they are rooting for. “We all want that first win so much,” said Mrs. Adams. “And that win gets closer every week.” Ron Brown’s wife LuAnne is also a member of the grandstand team, bringing the race crew snacks every Sunday, and taping the races each week.

The Goldsmith’s Midwest farm values help keep Bryant focused on his priorities. And while racing is very important, school and the farm come first. Bryant will be a senior at Corning High School this year, and plays football and runs track too. “We’re not very good,” was all Bryant would say about his football team. He did mention that he ran the 200, 400, and 800 meters in track, but in his typically quiet manner left out the fact that he also qualified for the Iowa State Track Meet in these events.

Bryant is a good student, and hopes to attend the University of Iowa in 2007. He enjoys math and science and while he is unsure of a major course of study, something in medicine is a first choice.

Yes, Bryant Goldsmith is the kind of young man you hope your daughter will bring home someday. Nice looking, intelligent, responsible, and hard working. So what if he loves fast and very expensive cars?? Someone from the 80's would say "his future's so bright he has to wear shades," but that doesn't fit the person, let alone the image. But his future is bright.

Sidebar: For Jack Roush If You Are Reading This

No, I am not Bryant Goldsmith's agent. I wish I were though. You managed to strike gold in Missouri, with a clean cut all-American boy named Carl Edwards, and Edwards has been a breath of fresh air in the Nextel Cup series the last two seasons. Well, not far north of where Edwards cut his teeth on dirt modifieds lies another vein of racing gold if you want to mine it. Yup, 17 year old Bryant Goldsmith. Clean cut, nice appearing, just like sponsors want. I mean the kid respects his parents, and is loved by his grandmother. Even his sister wants him to do well. Oh, and he is a farm boy too-wouldn't TV networks go crazy over that?? Intelligent, mechanically inclined, strong in math and science. Says to me that not only can he race the car, but when it is time to talk the talk about set up, he can get that job done too. He is racing against past national champions Joe and Ed Kosiski, and holding his own against the talented veterans-ask Carl about the K's. His brother Kenny races at their track, I-80 Speedway, and Carl visits on occasion. Better yet, come up with him and see for your self. Goldsmith has a natural talent that not many are blessed with, and he gets racing advice from several Midwest racing legends. Just say they are guiding him in a very positive manner. His mom says he is going to school, she means it, and he understands, BUT when asked what he would like to be doing five years from now, asphalt racing was the first words mentioned. Ahem. But act quickly. Who knows how long Mark Martin will continue racing? And you know the racing business. Rumors get started. Someone is sure to tell Joe Gibbs or Ray Evernham.

Sidebar: Kyle Berck On Bryant Goldsmith

"I am very excited to work with the Goldsmiths. Their situation reminds me a lot of my own 20 years ago, with the go-karting, farm kid, family operation. Bryant is a very talented driver, and the entire family is competitive, hard working, and passionate about racing. This combination has been and will continue to be successful for them. I met the Goldsmiths about 8 years ago when we raced Adams County Speedway in Corning on a weekly basis. I think Brooke was my biggest fan, and it was great to get to know them and to work with them now is a real treat."

