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### Jack Dover-The Gas Man

Jack Dover is your average teenage boy. Probably a little taller and maybe his hair is a little more unruly. Ask the girls and they'll say he definitely more handsome than most boys. He is quiet, a little shy, and well mannered. He gets good grades at Springfield-Platteview High School, but a lot of teenagers get good grades in high school. He is just another teenage boy. So, what makes Dover special? Well, he really knows when to get on the gas, man.

At age 16, Jack Dover is an accomplished racer with seven years of lead foot experience. He began his racing career driving a Junior Sprint Car in the National Modified Midget Association. To even casual observers, Dover's talent was obvious immediately as he finished fifth in the nation in 2000, and drove to three local championships. In 2001 he was the N.M.M.A. National Junior Sprint Champion. In his third year of racing he moved up to the 600 cc Restricted class, and finished a solid tenth in the nation, winning his very first feature race in the class. In 2003 Dover continued to gain experience and finished third in the nation in the 600 cc class.

In 2004 Dover capped off a 600 cc national championship season with a victory in the prestigious Tulsa Shoot Out. He also took home the prestigious Valvoline Cup Championship. 2005 saw Dover split seat time between his 600cc Modified Midget, and a 305 sprint car. He won 12 features in the Modified Midget, and all four of the special shows he entered in the 305 sprinter. Every year a little more experience, each summer honing a God-given ability.

But late in 2005, a serious injury almost spelled 'finis' to the young Nebraskan's hopes and dreams. Yes, driving a race car can be dangerous, driving a sprint car even more so. However, Dover was not behind the wheel of his #53 sprinter when he was injured. The youngster is a hands on driver, and as he was preparing to unload his car, a faulty hauler door gave way, crushing a leg. Luckily for Dover help was nearby and he was rushed to a local hospital-it could have been much more serious than just a compound fracture.

Just a compound leg fracture? 'Just' meant several surgeries, nerve damage, and a lengthy rehab. With lots of hard work, a private room and the help of a special teacher, Mr. Ferguson, Dover was able to keep up with his school work. Jack is a good student, but he learned at an early age that if he did not keep up his grades, the race car would be parked. High motivation for a young racer.

Still sore, but finally rid of his crutches, the Gas Man was ready for action when the 2006 season rolled around. Dover move up to a 360 sprint car, running weekly at the tough Eagle, Nebraska track as well as in the Midwest division of the ASCS tour. While just 16, Dover's maturity showed this season. For Dover, racing is not just going very fast and turning left. He is very conscientious about his equipment, actually easy on his equipment, or at least as easy as a sprint car driver can be with his equipment. He learned to communicate with adult crew members about what was wrong with his car.

He learned to use his brakes to set up a car. And even though the competition was turned up a notch or two, Dover remained level headed, and smooth in his sprinter.

“He hates tearing up his equipment,” noted mom Lori Dover.

But he loves passing. And in 2006 Dover passed his share of sprinters, and maybe someone else’s share too. The youngster finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in points at Eagle, winning two features, and finishing in the top five six times, and is a candidate for the track’s Rookie of The Year award.

Not satisfied with a strong season at Eagle, Dover also ran 16 Midwest region ASCS shows, capturing three top five finishes, and a second place in points. And raced well in several year end specials.

So, what is in store for the level-headed youngster from Springfield, NE ? Well, before talking about the future, the level headed youngster wanted to thank all who have helped him in the past. Like crew chief Greg Lanc who “knows a lot and helped turn around the program.” And crew members Mike Visocky, Jason Iverson, Paul Swanson, Cory Inserra, Shane Wulf and T.J. Smiley. Also, motor builder Jay Eckley, Phil Durst, and Jerry Russell. Don’t forget mentor Jeff Griffiths, and of course, mom and dad, Lori and Marc, sisters Adrian and Trish, and of course, his biggest fans, grandparents Tom and Loretta Dixon, and Jack and JoAnn Dover.

Like racers everywhere, what Dover does in 2007 depends on sponsors. Sprint car racing is terribly expensive, and Dover is at a level where moving up will require substantial sponsorship. To go “big time” racing would require three complete cars, according to father Marc. A move to 410 sprints would still require cubic dollars. And even more 360 ASCS tour events would need someone to “show him the money.”

Dover’s ultimate goal? Well, his hero is Dale Earnhardt Sr. if that tells you anything. And why not? Seems like Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart, and Kasey Kahne have fashioned great careers in Nextel Cup, after starting out in open wheel competition. Handsome and soft-spoken, the girls love him. Level headed and hands on, he doesn’t abuse equipment, and knows how to communicate with his crew, and feels that “working in the shop is the best part of racing.” And even more important, he has a ton of God-given talent in his right foot. NASCAR Nextel Cup, maybe, just maybe someday we might read “Dover wins Dover.”

#### Sidebar-Team Dover

The Dover family races. And races. And races. Jack in his #53(late model driver Joe Kosiski’s number, and the number father Marc used racing a modified), sister Trish in her zebra 9T 305 sprinter, and sister Adrian in her 01 Dukes of Hazzard hornet. Mom Lori does a little bit of everything, from cooking to picking up parts, and Marc is the Dover family circus ring leader. “It does take lots of sacrifices with three racing,” stated Lori, “but it is what our family wants to do.”

For 23 year old Adrian , her first year in racing has been “good therapy.” She is very open with her story, in the hope that others follow a different path. Adrian’s recent history included drugs, and a rehab center. But as of August 15<sup>th</sup> she was “clean for one year,” and believes racing is an important part of her recovery. Plus, “winning is good for

your self-esteem," she smiled. Adrian finished 5<sup>th</sup> in points in the Tuner division at Eagle Raceway.

19 year old Trish is the family comedian. A former homecoming queen-she was crowned queen the same day Jack suffered his leg injury-she studies interior design at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. Earlier this season she went from a Ballroom Dancing competition to running her 305 sprinter at I-80 Speedway in Greenwood, NE -and winning her feature. Trish loves little kids, and they love her, surrounding her in the pits after an evening of racing. Of course a lot of older kids of the male persuasion seem to be attracted to her as well. Trish took home the I-80 305 Sprint championship, garnering 4 feature wins at tht 4/10ths mile oval in 2006. She too is a talented sprint car driver, and would like to be part of the first "brother-sister" NASCAR Nextel Cup duo.

Team Dover . Like any family, they laugh, they argue, they cry. And they sacrifice to race. And maybe one day they WILL read "Dover wins Dover ." But will it be Jack, or a sister?