

# Ryan Watnem

Date of Birth:

5-7-1980



- **What is your most memorable racing experience?** I guess I would have to say that it wasn't just one particular race or season, but through all the years I've been racing I would say it has been the friendships that I have formed with the racing community. I have been fortunate enough to meet some of the nicest people that will do anything to help a guy out and to me, that's more special than any race I could ever win.
- **How did you first get into racing?** I actually started racing BMX bikes when I was younger and that kind of got me started into the racing mode. I always enjoyed going to the races as a kid and then one year Algona started a class called "Thunder Trucks" and I thought to myself that I could get out there and give it a whirl. Once I hit the track the next year I was hooked.
- **What advice would you give to somebody wanting to get into racing?** I think the best thing to do to get a grasp on racing before actually jumping right out in the thick of things would be to start with helping someone that has been racing a few years. Maybe take a summer and just dedicate helping a person out. Then you can get an idea of all the maintenance, preparation and time it takes to upkeep a race car. You may find that you don't want to deal with all the headaches, or you could really enjoy it and feel the itch to be in the drivers seat. At least you wouldn't be blindsided when the raceteam is all in your hands.
- **Are there any sacrifices that you have had to give up for your racing career?** It takes a lot of dedication throughout a racing season to be committed to every weekend, so if I said there were no sacrifices I'd be lying. One of the nice things about what I have going on is that almost all of my friends are very supportive and help out whenever they can, which makes it feel like I'm not really missing anything.
- **What is the worst accident that you have been involved in and were there any injuries involved?** I was involved in a wreck at Algona in my stock car a few years ago where I got hit full speed right on the driver door. I blacked out and the next thing I know I am in the ER getting checked out. When the Medics at the track came up on the wreck they thought I might possibly have neck or head injuries so they cut the car apart to get me out. Needless to say, that car was a complete loss, but at least I didn't suffer any serious injuries.
- **Who are your sponsors and what do they provide to you?** Watnem Farms Trucking, Big John's Motorsports, Hauck Post Frame Builders, Humboldt Springs Water, CPD Racing Tools, Viking Cabinetry, Quarters Bar, Bank Iowa, Kemco Tires, Ameriprise, Goodell Clydesdales, Hundertmark Auction, Rees Truck and Trailer, MS & Sons, Suntek Transport Group, Humboldt Mini Storage, The Prowler, Bandits, DM Pitsop Vending, Nielson Trucking, Pasquale's, McCullough Trucking, The Custom Shop, Meyer Photography, Gudmonson Services, Hjelmeland Flooring, Kuykendall Trucking

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- **What are the different tracks that you race at?** Hancock County Speedway (Britt), Algona Raceway, I-35 Speedway (Mason City), Mineral City Speedway (Ft. Dodge)
- **How much time do you put in your racing career?** This kind of varies from week to week on what happened the previous week and how much help I can round up, on average I would say around 2 week-nights a week getting the car prepared and then if I'm running both Friday and Saturday I usually spend most of the day Saturday getting ready for that night's race.
- **Please share anything else that you want here and we appreciate your comments.** I'd like to send a special thanks to my Mom, Dad and Sister for all their support through the years. Also a big thanks to John Beers, Chad Graaf, Jeff Goodell, Chad Lange, Chris Lau, John Norman, Denny Fuller and the Crimmins gang

Welcome to the end of the day.

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