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## Megan Reitenour

April 30, 1991-Present

Nationality: American

Started Racing in 1996

**Origins:** Megan Reitenour was born in Miamisburg, OH to a family already deeply involved in the sport of racing. She was exposed to cars and racing at a very young age, sharing her father's interest in speed and automobiles, and quickly became the third generation of Reitenour race car drivers with the support and guidance from her father. Megan jokes she began racing at the tender age of 2, when her father used pillows to prop her up behind the wheel of her pink Barbie Corvette.

**Early Influences:** Reitenour's actual racing career started only a few years later when she began racing quad runner at four years old and quickly moved up to Quarter Midget racing at the age of 5. After seven years of Quarter Midgets, she expanded her driving resume to include Bandoleros, Legends, and Stock Cars, and gaining success in all classes before her senior year of high school.

She attended the Women in the Winner's Circle Driver Development Academy and credits the program with helping her hone her skills to succeed in racing.

#### **Racing Accomplishments:**

- Earned over 150 top-3 finishes and three consecutive track championships during her Quarter Midget career.
- Won four championships during her two years racing in Bandolero Series: the Great Lakes Nationals, Buckeye Nationals, and Ohio State Championship in 2004, and the 2005 Ohio State Championship. Her success led to her being ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation.
- Competed in the Legends class in 2006, winning that year's Semi Pro Young Lions Ohio State Championship.
- In 2008, Reitenour moved to the Super Cup Stock Car Series as a development driver. She finished the season second in points after competing in 10 races and earning 9 top-5, 10 top-10 finishes, and three wins, the most for any competitor that season. She was also invited to attend NASCAR's 2009 Drive for Diversity Testing and Evaluation Combine.
- Completed the 2009 season NASCAR Whelen All-American Series 16 top-10 and seven top-5 finished in 17 events, finishing the year ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in points.

**Interesting Fact:** For her numerous racing accomplishments Megan was named Honorary Captain of the Cincinnati Reds Major League Baseball team for the April 27, 2008 home game. She met players and was even allowed to accompany Reds Coach Dusty Baker to the mound to receive pre-game instructions from officials!

**Life off the Track:** Reitenour spends most of her time outside racing working with charities and doing community service. Megan donates her time and talents regularly to organizations supporting those who have Multiple Sclerosis, Melanoma Cancer, Eosinophilic Disease (a disease found mostly in children that affects an individual's digestive system and blood), as well as organizations that care for animals. She attributes her success to the strong support of her family and friends and, although she has stuck to stock cars so far in her young driving career, Reitenour doesn't rule out a future in NASCAR or Indy Cars, hoping to simply keep racing for many years to come.

#### **Accomplishments and Awards:**

- 2006 Ohio Rookie of the Year in Legends class.
- Named one of 2008's Top 500 drivers in the Late-Model Stock Division of the series out of over 10,000 competitors
- Earned 2008 Super Cup Stock Car Series Rookie of the Year
- Selected in 2008 as one of first five young female drivers to receive a grant from Project Podium Scholarship Fund, a matching-funds grant program established by the Women in the Winners Circle Foundation
- Named 2009 NASCAR Whelen Late Model Rookie of the Year
- Member of Drive for Diversity Class of 2009

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**Research and biography written by Hilary Resteck and Casey Schuster, graduate students at Indiana University/Purdue University Public History Department.**