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## Angelle Sampey

August 7, 1970 - Present  
Nationality: American  
Raced: 1996 - Present

**Background:** Angelle Monique Sampey was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1970. She began racing motorcycles for fun at a young age and motor sports quickly became a popular hobby of hers. In 1995, after being in college for almost six years, she graduated from the Charity School of Nursing in New Orleans and began working as an intensive care nurse in May of that year. Her passion for racing had continued to grow while she was in school and she knew it was something she wanted to pursue. Wrestling with the desire to start a family or to race professionally, Sampey put her plans for motherhood on hold and attended Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School in December of 1995. With four-time NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) champ George Bryce as her coach, she further developed her racing skills. By July 1996, she made her NHRA debut as a Pro Stock Motorcycle racer, competing at Bandimere Speedway in Denver, Colorado. She won her first race at Reading, Pennsylvania in September of that year in just the fourth start of her career, and officially left her job as an intensive care nurse. Sampey continued to be successful, winning a number of races on her Suzuki throughout the late 1990s while competing for Star Racing. In 2000, she won the NHRA World Championship crown, becoming the first woman to win the title since Shirley Muldowney. She followed this up by winning the title again the next season. Reaching twenty-two career victories that year, she became the winningest female in drag racing history. In 2002, Sampey claimed the NHRA World Championship crown for the third consecutive year, only the second racer to accomplish this feat. She joined Don Schumacher Racing in 2003 and partnered with the U.S. Army, who remained her sponsor through 2007. In 2008, she teamed up with George Bryce again and was sponsored by Rush Racing Products. Unable to find sponsorship in 2009, Sampey was forced to watch from the sidelines after thirteen years of competition. With forty-one career victories, she is just five wins short of being the winningest Pro Stock Motorcycle racer in NHRA history.

**Early Influences:** Sampey's interest in motor sports began when she was very young. Her father and uncles were involved with racing and she used to go with the rest of her family to watch them compete. By the time she was six years old she had her own dirt bike and was racing around Louisiana's tracks against her brother Rickie. When she entered her teenage years however, her father wanted her to stop participating in the sport and encouraged her to pursue activities he considered more

suitable for girls. Sampey left racing behind for the time being, but while training to become a nurse she started driving again. Her uncle, amateur racer Chris Dufrene, helped her practice and she became determined to race professionally. After attending Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School and competing in her first few NHRA events, Sampey quickly made a name for herself. Despite many critics, she pursued her dream and set many records in the process.

#### **Racing Accomplishments:**

- Advanced to the semifinals after qualifying fifth at Bandimere Speedway in Colorado in her NHRA debut, 1996.
- Earned her first victory in just the 4<sup>th</sup> race of her career at Reading, PA on September 15, 1996.
  - Finished 7<sup>th</sup> in points in 1996 despite missing the first 6 races of the season.
- Won the 1997 All-Star Invitational in her first full season of competition.
  - Advanced to the semifinals in her first appearance in the Pro Stock Bike Specialty Race at Indianapolis.
- Runner-up in the Pro Stock Bike all-star event, 1998.
- Runner-up in the Pro Stock Bike bonus event at Indianapolis, 1998.
- Won five final-round appearances in 1999 and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the season's standings.
- Won her first NHRA World Championship crown in 2000, becoming only the second woman to win an NHRA title. The first was Shirley Muldowney.
  - She led her category in wins, final-rounds, and number one qualifying positions.
- Won her second NHRA World Championship crown in 2001, becoming the fourth rider in Pro Stock Bike history to win multiple championships.
  - She had seven victories during the year, the most ever in a single season by a female competitor in NHRA history.
  - She also broke an NHRA record during the season when she reached 22 career victories, making her the winningest female in drag racing history.
- Won the NHRA World Championship crown for the third time in 2002, becoming only the second rider to win three consecutive world titles.
  - She tied Shirley Muldowney for the most titles won by a female racer.
- Finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in points standings in 2003, with three wins and three number one qualifying positions.
  - By the end of the season she had 31 career victories, the third most in Pro Stock Motorcycle history.
- Finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in final standings in 2004.
  - She had four wins in six final-round appearances during the season, bringing her career total to 35 victories, the second most in Pro Stock Motorcycle history.
- Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in points in 2005, with two wins in three final-round appearances.
- Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the championship in 2006, with three wins. It was her 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive season finishing in the top five of the NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series.
  - She earned her 40<sup>th</sup> victory during the 2006 season.
  - She broke the national elapsed time record with a 6.939 second run at Reading, PA.
- She had one win in three final-round appearances and earned five number one qualifying positions in 2007.
  - She reset the national elapsed time record twice this season with a 6.911 second run in Gainsville, Florida and then a 6.871 second run in English Town, New Jersey.
- Reached two final rounds and earned one pole position in 2008.

**Life off the Track:** After thirteen years of traveling and racing around the country, Angelle Sampey is enjoying having the opportunity to spend time with her friends and family. Not having a sponsor for the 2009 season was difficult for the three-time Pro Stock Motorcycle Champion, as Sampey was eager to continue competing; however, she is using the time off to pursue her other interests. Outside of racing, Sampey loves Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Muay Thai Kick Boxing, watersports, working out, and hunting. She is very involved in charities, including Jaylen's Charities, which educates people about Tourette Syndrome. Sampey also has an affinity for aquariums and she and her boyfriend Seth Drago recently started their own aquarium business called Coral Fever. Unsure about whether or not she will have the opportunity to race again, she is currently taking an online RN refresher course so that she can get her nursing license reinstated.

**Interesting Fact:** Sampey loves animals. She had a pet monkey named Andy for seven years, but she had to give him up because he was becoming destructive. She has since advocated against having monkeys as pets, acknowledging that they should not be domesticated.

#### **Personal Website:**

<http://www.goangelle.com/>

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