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Emily Sue Steck

March 17, 1986 – Present

Nationality: American

Raced: 2002 – Present

Website: <http://www.d4d.tv/group/emilysuesteck>

Background: Emily Sue Steck was born in March of 1986 and grew up in Holmen, Wisconsin. She participated in her first race when she was fifteen years old and by age sixteen she was racing stock cars at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway in West Salem, Wisconsin, the only track in the state sanctioned by NASCAR. In 2003, Steck advanced to the Thunderstox division where she drove a 1976 Chevrolet Malibu. She continued to push herself and after graduating from Holmen High School in 2004, she made the move to the Sportsman division the next year, winning five races in 2005 and becoming the first female to win a dash event in the division. Steck followed these victories up in 2006 with her first fast time and she went on to set several other records throughout the year. She also had the opportunity to briefly drive in the Late Model division and in 2007, she was asked to join the Dutch Mill Trucking Team (DMT) and compete in Late Models for the season. Steck had a successful and busy year. Despite two wrecks, she managed to win the “Rookie of the Year” award and the “Most Popular Driver” award. She also married Nick Fuchs, who had graduated from Holmen High School two years before her. Steck competed in the NASCAR Whelen All American Series at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway during the 2008 season and

returned in 2009 after earning a spot in NASCAR's Drive for Diversity program. She sustained an injury to her hand early in the year that left her with broken bones in her thumb and a cast on her arm, but it did not slow her down as she went on to get her first feature win at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway in June. In addition to her racing accomplishments, Steck has spent the last few years working on her education degree at Winona State University and she ultimately hopes to become a physical education teacher.

Inspiration and Influences: Steck's interest in racing began when she was very young, but she did not consider competing in the sport until years later. Her family used to go to LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway to watch races when she was a child and together, they all became fans of the sport. When she was twelve, her parents, Al and Sheila, purchased a snowmobile for the family and Steck quickly realized her personal love for speed. Three years later, her father surprised her by giving her a 1989 Mustang to race in the entry-level division at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway. This race was just the beginning for Steck. Her skill and determination have helped her become very successful in the sport as she has advanced from Hornets and Queen Bee races to the Late Model division. She is appreciative of her family's sacrifices and continues to look to them for support as she pursues her racing career.

Racing Accomplishments:

- Finished in 21st place out of sixty-six drivers in her first season racing in the Thunderstox division at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway in 2003.
- Won two heat races in the Sportsman division in 2005.
- Became the first woman to win a dash event in the Sportsman division in 2005 and won three of these events by the time the season ended.
- Set her first fast time at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway in 2006, becoming the first woman to record a fast time in any division at the track.
 - Set a total of seven fast times throughout the 2006 season.
- Finished in the top 10 in eight feature races in the Late Model division in 2007.
- She had five top 5 finishes, eighteen top 10 finishes, and won two poles racing in the Whelen All-American Series in 2008.
- She was invited to participate in the Drive for Diversity Testing and Evaluation Combine in 2008.
- Won her first major race in June 2009 at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway, becoming the first woman to win at the track in the Late Model division
 - Finished the 2009 season with three wins in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series.

Awards and Recognition:

- Received the "Rookie of the Year" award for the Late Model division at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway in 2007.
- Won the "Most Popular Driver" award at LaCrosse Fairgrounds Speedway in 2007.
- NASCAR honored her with the Wendell Scott Trailblazer Award in 2007.

Life off the Track: Steck spends the majority of her time trying to balance her racing career with her academics. During 2009, in addition to competing on the racetrack and attending classes, she also worked two part-time jobs. She is no stranger to success and her achievements are widespread. In 2004, Steck was named champion of LaCrosse Interstate Fair's youth livestock auction where she took home the title for her 147-pound lamb. That same year, Steck was also a state champion powerlifter and finished in third place in the national high school meet. Her winning spirit continues through today as she trains in preparation for future races.

Interesting Fact: During Steck's early years racing, she used to have No. 17 written on the side of her cars as well as a few shamrocks because she was born on St. Patrick's Day. When she moved up to competing in the Late Model division No. 17 was already taken so Steck chose to have No. 6 written on her cars instead.

Sources Consulted

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