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### Natalie Sather

March 12, 1985-Present

Nationality: American

Started Racing in 1994

Website: [www.nataliesather.com](http://www.nataliesather.com)

**Origins:** Natalie Sather was raised in Fargo, North Dakota. With her father's experience in the automobile business, Natalie was exposed to a world of automobiles at a young age. As a child she shared her father's interest and exhibited an affinity for racing and autos.

**Early Influences:** Natalie started racing go-karts at the age of nine. A few years later she began earning awards for sportsmanship and her racing, even being named a Grand National Champion at the age of 16. After reaching the highest level of go-kart racing in high school, Sather then turned her attention to Sprint Cars.

#### **Racing Accomplishments:**

- First female winner of the Duffy Trophy for the 20001 Grand National Championship go-kart on pavement.
- In 2002, Sather posted two top-10 finishes in Sprint Car on dirt series after recovering from a serious accident during her fifth race of the year. After several surgeries, Natalie returned to the series to post her highest finishes of the season.
- Placed 11<sup>th</sup> in 2004 American Sprint Car National point standings.

- Sather recorded the highest finish by a female in Knoxville Raceway history, earning 5<sup>th</sup> place in a 2007 360 event. Later that year Natalie became the American Sprint Car Series Midwest Points Champion.
- She ended the 2008 Sprint Car season with four Hard Charger Awards, winning an E Main Feature race and finishing 10<sup>th</sup> in the 360 Knoxville Raceway point standings.
- 2009 marked the first year Natalie competed on asphalt in the Whalen All-American Series at Evergreen Speedway (Monroe, WA). She competed in 17 races, finishing all of her races within the top-10, posting eight top-5 finishes, and earning 4<sup>th</sup> place in series points.

**Interesting Facts:** Natalie has been able to balance the busy life of a racer with the demanding world of beauty pageants! During off-seasons, she was named Miss Congeniality at the 2003 Miss Teen North Dakota pageant and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up in the 2006 Miss North Dakota pageant.

**Life off the Track:** Sather enjoys the outdoors, taking advantage of North Dakota's hunting and fishing opportunities, and jet-skiing in the warmer months. She also volunteers with the local Humane Society and Fargo's Merit Care Children's Hospital. Even when not racing, Natalie shares her driving experiences through speaking engagements at schools where she presents the excitement of auto racing and the importance of car safety. She plans on moving to North Carolina to continue pursuing her career and reach her goal of racing at the NASCAR Sprint Cup level.

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

- Winner of American Sprint Car Series Young Lion Award in 2004.
- 360 Rookie of the Year at Knoxville Raceway in 2008, becoming the first woman to receive that honor.
- 2009 Washington State Rookie of the Year in the Whalen All-American Series driving a Super Late Model car.
- Member and only open-wheel driver of Drive for Diversity Class of 2009.
- Graduate of the Jimmy Sills Racing School (2004), Skip Barber Racing School (2006), Finish Line Racing School (2008), and Women in the Winners Circle Academy (2008)

#### **Sources Consulted:**

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- "Natalie Sather." *Drive for Diversity*. 2009. 17 January 2010. [http://drivefordiversity.info/content/?page\\_id=110](http://drivefordiversity.info/content/?page_id=110)
- "Natalie Sather." *RacingOne.com*. 2010. 17 January 2010. <http://www.racingone.com/driver.aspx?driverid=2778&seriesID=6&subID=6>
- "Natalie 'Speed' Sather Racing." *NatalieSather.com*. 23 November 2009. 17 January 2010. <http://www.nataliesather.com/>

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