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Katherine Legge

July 12, 1980 – Present

Nationality: British

Raced: 2000 - Present

Background: Katherine Anne Legge was born in Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom in 1980. She started racing for fun when she young and it was a passion that continued to grow. After attending convent school, Legge decided not to go to college and instead chose to pursue a career in motor sports. She competed in many karting races in Europe throughout the 1990s. In 2000, she raced in the British Formula Ford Zetec Championship and became the first woman to ever win a pole position in the series. She had similar success in the British Formula Renault Championship in 2002, winning another pole position. Legge began working as a racing instructor in England during this time, trying to make money so that she could continue to compete. In 2003, she participated in the British Formula 3 Championship, and in 2004 she raced in both the British and the North American Formula Renault Championships. Legge's breakthrough year came in 2005. After cornering Kevin Kalkhoven, CEO of JDS Uniphase Corporation and a partner of PKV Racing, she was given the chance to pursue her dreams. Kalkhoven agreed to let PKV sponsor her in the first ten races of the Toyota Atlantic Championship. Competing for Polestar Racing Group, Legge surprised everyone by winning the first race in the series at Long Beach, making her the first woman to win a major open-wheel race in North America. She earned two more victories during the year and finished third overall in the Championship. In November, she saw another dream come true when she was given the opportunity to test a Formula One car with Minardi. The following month she tested a Champ Car, and in 2006 she continued her racing career in the United States by competing in the Champ Car World Series with PKV Racing. Despite having to deal with new tracks and heavier, faster cars, Legge had four top-ten finishes during the season. She suffered a violent accident at Road America in September when the rear wing of her car broke off, causing the vehicle to slam into the wall and flip over as it broke into pieces. Legge emerged from the accident with bruises on her knees, but she maintained her positive and cheerful attitude, giving an interview shortly after the incident. She continued to race Champ Cars in 2007. In 2008, after spending four years

in the United States, she returned to Europe to race in the Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters series (DTM) for Audi. It was a learning year for her and in 2009 she started her second season, racing a year-old Audi A4 DTM with Team Abt Sportsline.

Early Influences: Legge gained an interest in racing during her childhood. When she was nine years old, her dad took her to a go-karting event and she was immediately hooked. He bought a red-and-white kart for her and the two of them went racing together every weekend for the next ten years. Her dad has always supported her career in motor sports and has encouraged her to pursue her dreams. Even though he has never driven a race car himself, he continues to give Katherine coaching and driving advice, which she has always found amusing. Besides her father, Katherine was further inspired early on in her life by racers like Ayrton Senna. She became determined to compete herself and has continued to progress in the sport.

Racing Accomplishments:

- Raced in the British Formula Ford Zetec Championship in 2000 and became the first woman to win a pole position in the series when she competed at Brands Hatch.
- Participated in the Formula Renault Winter Series in 2001.
- Won the pole position at Oulton Park in the British Formula Renault Championship in 2002, beating Kimi Räikkönen's lap record.
- Finished in 3rd place in the British Women Racing Drivers' Club (BWRDC) Monoposto Trophy in 2002.
- Finished in 3rd place in the Can-Am Championship in 2004.
- Finished in 10th place in the North American Formula Renault series in 2004.
- Won the Toyota Atlantic Championship series' opener at Long Beach in 2005, becoming the first woman to win a major open-wheel race in North America. It was also her first career Toyota Atlantic start.
 - Won at Edmonton in 2005.
 - Won at San Jose in 2005.
 - Finished in 2nd place at Road America in 2005.
 - Finished in 2nd place at Miami in 2005.
 - Finished 3rd overall in the Toyota Atlantic Championship in 2005, with 3 wins and 5 podiums.
- Tested a Formula One car for Minardi in November 2005, becoming the first woman to do so since Sarah Fischer in 2002.
- Participated in the A1 Grand Prix in Dubai for Team Great Britain (GB) in 2005.
- Tested Champ Cars for Rocketsports and PKV Racing at Sebring International Speedway in December 2005.
- Became the first female to compete full-time in the Champ Car World Series (CCWS) in 2006.
 - Finished in 8th place at Long Beach in 2006 in her very first Champ Car race.
 - Finished in 6th place at the Milwaukee Mile in 2006.
 - Finished in 8th place at Cleveland in 2006.
 - Finished in 9th place at Denver in 2006.
- She had two top-ten finishes racing Champ Cars for Dale Coyne Racing in 2007, finishing in 6th place at Las Vegas and in 10th place at Long Beach.
- Participated in the Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters series (DTM, German Touring Car Masters) in 2008 and 2009.
 - Claimed 5th place on the grid at the Norisring street circuit, achieving the best qualifying result by a woman in the history of the new DTM.

Awards and Recognition:

- Received the British Racing Drivers' Club (BRDC) 'Rising Stars' accolade in 2002, becoming the first woman to be awarded the honor.
- Awarded the British Women Racing Drivers' Club (BWRDC) Susan JP Jamieson Award for the fastest lap speed recorded by a female in the UK in 2002.
- Winner of the Kathryn Nunn IPS Scholarship in 2004.
- Received the 2005 RACER Magazine "Most Promising Road Racer of The Year" award, as voted by fans around the world.
- Won Southern California's top racing moment of the year in 2005 with her win at Long Beach in the Formula Atlantic series.
- Received the Toyota Atlantic BBS Rising Star award in 2005.
- Awarded the Lord Wakefield Trophy by RAC MSA (BWRDC) for outstanding services or performances to the sport.
- Won the SPEED TV Performance Award for the "Biggest Hit" in 2006.

Life off the Track: Even in the off-season, Katherine Legge spends much of her time focusing on her racing. She is always looking for ways to improve and become a better driver and has stated that she cannot imagine herself pursuing a different career. When she is not competing or training, she enjoys participating in water sports and snow skiing.

Interesting Fact: Ever since the beginning of her career, Legge has always gotten into her cars from the left-hand side.

Personal Website:

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

Sources Consulted

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