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Mackena Bell

June 9, 1990 – Present
Nationality: American
Raced: 2002 – Present

Background: Mackena Bell was born in June of 1990 and grew up in Carson City, Nevada. She started racing Super Outlaw Dirt Karts at age twelve and was immediately successful. In her rookie season in 2002, she was the Nevada Super Outlaw Kart Champion and received her first Rookie of the Year title. In 2003 and 2004, she competed in the Super Outlaw Dirt Kart 125cc Division, finishing in 3rd place in the points standings each season. Bell spent 2005 improving her racing skills by attending the Wally Pankratz Midget driving school in San Bernardino, California, as well as participating in Women in the Winner's Circle Driver Development Academy. She had a busy year, racing in both the Super Outlaw Dirt Kart 500cc Division and the Semi Pro Division, where she drove an Asphalt Legends car. Bell finished the season at Champion Speedway in Carson City by winning the Legends Division Championship. With this achievement, she became the first female to win a Legends Championship and the youngest driver to win a title at Champion Speedway in the track's forty-two year history. Bell also made history that year by becoming the first female and the only Legends car driver to crash and flip her car outside the safety barrier wall at Shasta Raceway Park (SRP) in Anderson, California. She was back racing shortly after the accident and track officials named her the Most Inspirational Driver in 2006. She caught the eye of Marty Melo of Melo Motorsports later that year and he gave her the opportunity to race in a Late Model car. Bell accepted the offer and made her debut in the NASCAR Whelen Series with Melo Motorsports in the summer of 2007. She raced well in the series, earning a top ten finish in her second start. She went on to attend Jimmy Sills School of Open Wheel Racing in Marysville, California at the end of the season. In 2008, she returned to race in the NASCAR Whelen Late Model Series, this time backed by Mackena Bell Motorsports, a team her family had created earlier that year. She raced Super Late Model cars in 2009, and was officially accepted into the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Program in 2010. Bell balances her busy racing

career with her academics. She graduated from Carson High School in 2008 and entered Western Nevada College in 2009, where she is currently majoring in Business Marketing.

Inspiration and Influences: Bell's interest in racing began at age ten when she started driving a kart powered by a modified lawnmower engine. By age twelve she was racing Super Outlaw Dirt Karts and quickly advanced to the INEX Legends Division. Her family supported her throughout this period as she continued to push herself to gain more experience behind the wheel. Her dad, Kelly, helped maintain her race cars and her mom, Shannon, worked on her PR and race reports while her sister Kelly cheered her on. When Bell encountered sponsorship problems in late 2007 and did not receive full funding for the 2008 season, her family decided to sell her Championship winning Legends car and they used the proceeds to start their own Late Model team called Mackena Bell Motorsports. Bell credits their support and the encouragement of her hometown fans in helping her to be so successful in her racing career.

Racing Accomplishments:

- Won the Nevada Outlaw Kart Championship in 2002.
- Finished in 3rd place in the QRC All-Star Traveling West Coast Tour racing Super Outlaw Dirt Karts in the 125cc Division in 2003 and 2004.
- Attended the Wally Pankratz Midget Driving School in San Bernardino, CA in 2005.
- Attended the Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving in Phoenix, AZ in 2005.
- Graduated from Women in the Winner's Circle Driver Development Academy in 2005.
- Finished in 2nd place in her rookie season racing in the 500cc Division in 2005.
- Won the Legends Championship at Champion Speedway in Carson City, NV in 2005.
 - She was the first female to win the championship and the youngest driver to ever win a title at Champion Speedway.
- Had 7 top ten finishes in the Open 500cc Division in 2006.
- Finished in 4th place in the PRO Division Standings racing her Asphalt Legends 1250cc car at Shasta Raceway Park (SRP) in Anderson, CA in 2006.
 - She had 9 top five finishes and 10 top ten finishes.
- Attended the Jimmy Sills School of Open Wheel Racing in Marysville, CA in 2007.
- Finished in 12th place in her debut race driving Late Model cars in the NASCAR Whelen Series at All American Speedway in Roseville, CA in 2007.
 - Earned a top ten finish in her second race of the series.
- Received a 3rd place finish in the PRO Division Standings in the Legends of the Pacific West Coast Tour in 2007.
 - Finished in 4th place in the overall division standings.
- Invited to attend NASCAR's Drive for Diversity Combine in South Boston, VA in 2008.
- Formed the Late Model Team, "Mackena Bell Motorsports," with her family in 2008.
- Finished in 8th place in the NASCAR Whelen Late Model Series in 2008, where she was the youngest female to compete.
 - Ended the season with 3 top five finishes and 11 top ten finishes.
- Participated in the NASCAR Whelen Late Model Series again in 2009 and ended the season with another 8th place finish.
 - She had 10 consecutive top ten finishes and 1 top five finish.
- Earned a podium finish in the Super Late Model Division Series at Toyota Speedway in Irwindale, CA in 2009, becoming the first female to do so.
- Selected to participate in NASCAR's Drive for Diversity Program and was the only female to earn a position on the K&N Pro Series East Team in 2010.

Awards and Recognition:

- Won her first "Rookie of the Year" title racing her Super Outlaw Dirt Kart in the Box Stock Division in 2002.
- Won "Rookie of the Year" titles in 2003 and 2004 in the 125cc Division.
- Won the "Promoters Choice" award in 2005.
- She was the only female to win the 6ft. Perpetual Trophy on Dirt in 2005.
- Won the "Most Inspirational Award" in 2006.
- Won the "Team Adversity Award" as part of Bell Racing in 2007.

Life off the Track: Like other racers her age, Bell has to balance her career in motor sports with her academics. She earned honor roll status during high school and also received a "Student of the Month" award. She has held several jobs over the years, including being a nanny and a youth basketball coach for sixth grade girls. For a long time, Bell was eager to pursue a career in nursing in case she could not race in the future. Although she remains interested in emergency care, she has put those plans on hold temporarily in order to focus on Business Marketing and learn about the business side of motor sports.

She has participated in many training and educational programs to improve her racing skills and even spoke to U.S. troops at Women's Equality Day in 2009.

Interesting Fact: Bell was named the prom queen of Carson High School in 2008 and wore a checkered flag prom dress to the dance. Many people in her hometown now refer to her as the "NASCAR Prom Queen." She was also voted Female Class Clown by her graduating class.

Personal Website:

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

Sources Consulted

Newspaper and Online Articles:

- "Carson City's Mackena Bell Finds Success on and off the Race Track," The Nevada Appeal. 2 September 2009. <<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20090902/NEWS/909029978/1001/NONE&parentprofile=1058>>.
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Research and biography written by Hilary Resteck and Casey Schuster, graduate students at Indiana University/Purdue University Public History Department.