



the
**Henry
Ford**®



Erin Crocker

March 23, 1981- Present

Nationality: American

Started racing in 1988

Origins: Erin Crocker, the youngest of five siblings, was born in Wilbraham, MA. Her father William encouraged Erin's brothers to share his passion for racing and was pleasantly surprised when Erin also showed an interest in the sport. She started quarter midget racing at the age of seven, winning numerous events and being named the Most Improved Novice her first year racing. Throughout middle school and high school, Crocker continued to collect accolades, racing quarter midgets, mini sprints, and sprints. Her athleticism wasn't confined to racing, however, as Crocker established herself as a star high school athlete, playing varsity lacrosse, tennis, and soccer and being a member of the ski team.

Early Influences: Crocker began racing professionally while attending college at New York's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, finding time to focus on schoolwork and play varsity lacrosse during the week, while still being able to race on weekends. In 2003 she graduated with a degree in industrial and management engineering and continued successfully racing sprint cars, while Rensselaer sponsored her World of Outlaws endeavors. By 2004, Crocker caught the attention of Ford's driver development efforts and she was invited to participate in their program with hopes of breaking into NASCAR. Crocker opted not to go with Ford in 2005, but accepted a position with Evernham Motorsports, becoming the first woman to enter its driver development program. While with Evernham Motorsports, she was able to gain experience in the ARCA, Busch, and Craftsman truck series, which helped make a name for herself in the world of racing.

Racing Accomplishments:

- Three-time Northeast Regional Quarter Midgets of America Champion. Crocker held the quarter midget title from 1993-1996.
- Crocker became the youngest driver to win at the Whipp City, MA Speedway when she earned a mini sprint victory at the track in 1998.
- Won five feature races and 12 heat events driving a 360 winged sprint car for Woodring Racing in 2002.
- In 2003 she became the first woman to qualify for the 410 winged sprint class at the Knoxville Nationals.
- Became first woman to win a World of Outlaws feature when she claimed a victory October 2004 at the Thunderbowl Raceway (Tulare, CA).
- Competed in the 2005 ARCA/RE MAX series as part of the Evernham Motorsport's driving development program. She collected five top-ten finishes and two pole positions in six starts, winning the Superspeedway Championship, the first woman driver to do so.
- Competed in the 2006 Craftsman Truck series as part of the Evernham #98 Dodge Ram team. Crocker, the first woman to run a full season and finished the series in 25th place.
- Toured throughout the 2008 season supporting affordable entry-level racing technology within the newly developed SpeedSTR class.

Interesting Fact: The Biography Channel featured Crocker during an episode of their 2006 series *NASCAR: Driven to Win*. The series, produced in conjunction with NASCAR, profiled young, up and coming drivers to show their lives on and off the track as they dealt with the everyday realities of competitive racing.

Life off the Track: Crocker found herself without a sponsor after Evernham Motorsports decided to close the #98 team following the 2006 season. However, she continued to race in a few truck series events in 2007, as well as volunteer for the Make a Wish Foundation. She provided her racing insights when she jumped into the SPEED Channel's broadcast booth for a September 2008 ARCA/REMAX race. In August 2009, Erin married Ron Evernham, a well-known individual within the racing community. Evernham is currently a co-owner of Gillett-Evernham Racing, an ESPN analyst, owner the East Lincoln Speedway outside Charlotte, NC, and proprietor of Ray Evernham Enterprises, which includes a museum and auto shop.

Awards and Achievements:

- Quarter Midgets of America Female Driver of the Year from 1993 to 1995
- 2002 National Sprint Car Hall of Fame Outstanding Newcomer Award winner
- 2003 Knoxville Nationals Rookie of the Year
- 2004 USCA Kara Hendrick Spirit Award honoree

Sources Consulted

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