

Reutimann is a star in the making

By: Charles Titus

Darrell Waltrip has always allowed the best drivers in the sport to drive for him. For example Darrell Waltrip asked Terry Labonte to sit in for him in the Darrell Waltrip MotorSports (In 1985 it was called DARWAL) No. 17 Budweiser Pontiac in the Busch Grand National series event the Miller 400. In Terry's first appearance in the Busch Series he won the race for Darrell Waltrip. Since then Darrell Waltrip has come along way. For a couple of years before the 2004 Truck season, Darrell did not own any kind of a racing team. Then in the late 2003 season he decided to enter back into the ownership role.

When Darrell Waltrip made the first steps in creating a Craftsman Truck Series team he made one really great choice. That choice was to make David Reutimann the driver of the No. 17 NTN Bearing's Truck. In the 2004 racing season David Reutimann won the Craftsman Truck Series rookie of the year title. Now in the 2005 Darrell Waltrip MotorSports No. 17 NTN Bearing's truck and David Reutimann will enter in their second year in the truck series. I believe that the team will do very well this year. With the addition of a new full time truck team to the Darrell Waltrip MotorSports should only make the No. 17 truck team even harder to beat.

David has already shown that he knows how to wheel a racecar. In his first Busch Series start David started thirty-fourth (due to rain) at Richmond and finished sixteenth. In that race he raced some very talented people and raced very clean. Then in the 2003 Busch Season David Reutimann was asked to qualify a racecar that he had never sat in prior to qualifying, and he won the pole. But since David was only qualifying the car for Greg Biffle he was not allowed to drive in the race. Then in the 2004 Truck season David won the rookie of the year honors.

I recently spoke to David Reutimann, and it was like I knew him forever. David was very friendly, and very polite. He will be very hard to beat in his 2005 season, and he will bring many victories to the Darrell Waltrip MotorSports team in 2005. There is one thing that comes to mind when I here David Reutimann name, and that is the next star in the NASCAR Nextel Cup series.

Hey David,

I would like to take the chance now to thank you for allowing me to do this interview with you today.

1. How do you feel about Darrell Waltrip MotorSports expanding to two full time truck series teams?

“Well it is a beneficial for both teams. You see it in the cup series and that means more testing times, more info, and that is true for the truck series. I think it is very beneficial.”

2. Out of your racing career what do you believe helped you get noticed?

“We started running well in the All Star Series. Also I think it came down too when I ran for Joe Nemechek, and the race was rained out, so he let me use his car number. That put us starting last, and we finished 15th or 16th. I raced a lot of good drivers and raced a clean race. I did not touch anything. The following year I got a 7 race deal from NEMCO because of that, and I led some races.”

3. What kind of goals have you set for yourself and the team this year?

“Well realistically I think we need to try and win poles and races. The team that I am associated with here is an elite team; I think that we showed that last year. I believe that we have a shot at winning some races this year, and hopefully finishing in the top five in points.”

4. Are there any plans for you to do any Busch Series races this year for NEMCO MotorSports, or for any other teams in any other series?

“As it seems right now, no. It might be a possible, and I am going to concentrate on the Truck series. I will not rule it out, but if it does happen then it will probably be a one race deal”

5. Out of all of the great drivers that have ever driven a racecar, who would you say was your favorite driver?

“Let’s see, probably my father Buzzie Reutimann. He could get the most out of his equipment than anybody else did. I also like Darrell because he said what he

thought, and Harry Gant because he was a quiet and clean racer. But my father was my favorite driver. If he would have taken a couple of different turns then he would have been a NASCAR Cup champion.”

6. So how did it feel to take your rookie stripe off of your truck at the end of last season?

“It felt good that you made your first year. It was more of a confidence builder; you have a better understating of what is going on at the racetracks.”

7. What would you be doing if you were not a racecar driver?

“I would probably be dead. No just kidding. I have a background with racing fabrications, and I love to build cars, and building chassis. I really like to build stuff, and I have built all of my seats in my cars.”

8. You built your own seats?

“Yes back when I started racing seats cost anywhere from twelve to fifteen hundred dollars, and I said that I think that I can do that. My first one that I made was very crude. I don’t think that it even made it into the car. Then it actually got to the point where I made some seats for other teams.”

9. What is your fondest childhood memory?

“You know, I had a cool life. My dad would race in New Jersey and New York and come back to Florida for the winter. I went to from one school to another, and I got to meet a lot of neat people. I did not have swing sets and stuff like that, but I had go carts and room to run and I had a lot of freedom. I had a lot of fun. I enjoyed going and watching my dad race mainly.”

10. So as a child what would you say was your favorite television show?

“I am feeling old now. I can’t really remember, as a kid I watched a lot of cartoons. I have always been a huge Saturday night live fan, but that was not when I was a child.”

11. What is your worst prank, either perpetrated by you, or done by you?

"I stole a drive shaft out of my uncle's car, and he is a school teacher. We were always going back and forth teasing each other. He had a faculty meeting one day and I got there and I stole the drive shaft. He was not that happy about it, but in the end I had to put it back in there."

12. What is your favorite candy?

"I like all kind of it. I would have to say my favorite kind is Starburst. I can eat it by the handful."

13. What is your middle name?

"My middle name is David. My first name is Emil, which were my fathers name and my grandfather's name."

14. In your free time, what do you enjoy doing, or should I say what are your hobbies?

"I enjoy video games, remote control airplanes, and remote control cars. That is my deal. I also enjoy spending time with my daughter. She just turned three, so she is at a very fun age."

15. And for the last question how do you feel about the NASCAR Cup drivers coming to the Truck series and racing?

"I really don't mind it because if you have the ambition of making it than it is better for you. I look at it as the sooner the better at racing them. It is a learning experience for you. You can gain a lot of knowledge, because the cup guys don't mind to answer questions for you if you have something to ask them."

Thank you, David for taking the time to answer these questions. I hope that the 2005 Truck Series Season is very successful for you.