



## PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER – FALL, 2017



*Here's a photo of a popular Pennsylvania racer waiting to race at a popular New Jersey dirt track. Do you know the name of the driver, the location and, for bonus points, the year?*

It's Doug Hoffman behind the wheel of the Leon Conklin-owned #125, ready to race at Flemington (NJ) Speedway in the "Wendy's 200" in 1987. For those not familiar with Doug Hoffman, read on:

Doug Hoffman was a resident of Allentown, PA, born on October 30, 1958. He began his racing career in 1977 on asphalt, driving his Late Model #60 Over at the former Dorney Park Speedway in PA. He took to racing easily, winning in only his fifth start. He also won at Evergreen Speedway in nearby Hazleton, PA, another asphalt track. He then made the switch to dirt racing and the rest, as they say, is history.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Hoffman was the only racer in his family. Without the advantages of being a "legacy" racer, it was fortunate that he struck up a friendship with Budd Olsen, a former driver and successful chassis builder. Olsen mentored Hoffman and shaped him into the accomplished racer he would become. In the early 1990s, Doug Hoffman, the dirt racing champ, returned to asphalt racing on an occasional basis with good results: in 1992, he won the NASCAR Winston Modified Tour 200 at Flemington Speedway.

During his 32-year career, he won 482 features at 38 tracks in nine states and two Canadian provinces. He took home 25 championship titles. Highlights of his career include beating out rival Brett Hearn for the 1991 Mr. DIRT championship; winning the 1996 Super DIRT Week Fay's 300 in Syracuse, NY (after starting in the back using a provisional starting spot); winning the 2004 NASCAR Dodge Weekly Series Northeast Region championship; being honored as a 2011 Northeast Modified Hall of Fame inductee; and entering the Eastern Motorsport Press Association's Hall of Fame in 2015.

Although he continued to race occasionally, in 2005 Hoffman traded his helmet for a promoter's hat, promoting Mahoning Valley Speedway in Lehigh, PA until 2011. In 2012 he left Mahoning to promote Bridgeport Speedway in Swedesboro, NJ. He helped to revitalize the track by bringing back the big-block Modifieds and introducing his Poker Series, which had been successful at Mahoning Valley.

Sadly, Hoffman passed away suddenly on December 24, 2012. He is survived by his wife Gena, daughters Joette and Skye, a granddaughter Mattie and brothers Michael, David, Donald and Keith, also a racer, who has taken over his brother's position at Bridgeport. Away from the track, Hoffman owned and operated DCH Trucking, LLC from 2003 until his passing.

Although often considered an "intense" racer, Hoffman was well-liked in the sport, both as a racer and a promoter. In March of 2013, the first "60-Over Special Doug Hoffman Memorial" was held at Bridgeport Speedway. The Memorial has been run each year since and is well-attended, a testament to the regard Doug Hoffman's fans and competitors still hold for him. This year's event will run on March 30-31, 2018.