

BILL ROOK

Bill Rook was a Huset's Speedway champion and top area sprint car driver before losing his life in an accident at Huset's at the age of 32. Rook's skills of driving a race car were evident early in his career when he won the 1977 street stock championship in his first full year of racing at Lake County Speedway near his home in Madison. The next year, he moved up to the six-cylinder modified class where he was a top competitor as well. Rook took the wheel of a sprint car for the first time in 1980, driving for Huset's Hall of Fame member Harold Krull and finished sixth in points. The following year, Rook and his family put together their own 360 sprint car team. While the Rooks fielded a solid racing operation, their success reached a higher level when they began a close relationship with Hall of Fame member Loren Woodke and his son, Bryan, in 1985. They won the 1985 and 1986 championships Madison and the 1986 championship at Huset's, as well as the 1986 Jackson Nationals title with the aid of the Woodkes. Rook appeared poised to enjoy a long and successful racing career due to his desire and talent prior to the Sunday evening race at Huset's on June 17, 1987. But that night, Rook's car flipped over the backstretch wall on the final lap of the feature. The accident took his life and that of track worker Dennis Grave. Bill Rook left behind his wife, Barb, and son, Brandon.