

## **DARRYL DAWLEY**

Darryl Dawley began his racing career in the 1950s, competing in drag racing. The following decade, he moved onto the local dirt ovals, building and driving his own modified stock car. Dawley found success in the modifieds and later in the super-modifieds, collecting wins at Huset's and a number of other tracks along with championships in Jackson, Minnesota in 1968 and 1969 and in Fairmont, Minnesota in 1969. But the Sioux Falls transmission shop owner wasn't satisfied with racing modifieds. For him, they had too many rules and he often butted heads with local tracks in regards to the restrictions and requirements they placed on the racing machines. In 1970, Dawley became one of the first local drivers to move up to the sprint cars. Although there were few sprint car tracks near the Sioux Falls area, Dawley was willing to travel to be able to race in a division that provided high speeds and few rules. Dawley eventually competed at tracks that stretched from North Dakota to Florida to Texas to California. He enjoyed racing against the best drivers in the country, wherever they competed. For a five-year period, his regular weekend racing schedule included racing in Topeka, Kansas on Friday, Knoxville, Iowa on Saturday, and Minneapolis on Sunday. He was as tough a racer as any, often enduring hard crashes while continuing to race despite injuries and pain. In Arizona in 1977, Dawley broke both wrists, his arm and collarbone in a violent crash but returned to race a couple of months later. His career was highlighted by victories at the Winter Nationals in Tampa, Fla., Cheaters Day in Sioux Falls and four wins at Knoxville, a track he considered the toughest regular racing program in the country. Dawley's final win at Knoxville came at the track's Mid-Season Championships on June 30, 1979. One week later at the track, the 38-year-old driver was involved in a multi-car crash at the start of the main event. Dawley perished in the accident, which also took the life of Huset's Hall of Fame member Roger Larson.