

JERRY ROSS

Jerry Ross' first involvement at Huset's Speedway found him whitewashing the fences and working the concessions stands as a teenager in the early 1960s. In 1963, the 17-year old son of driver Jim Ross got his first experience behind the wheel of a race car when he drove Huset's Hall of Famer Al Fielder's No. 22. Ross soon left for the military service, serving from 1965-1967. He competed at the track when he was home on leave, winning all four races he entered. After receiving his discharge, Ross and Lyle Nelsen formed a formidable racing team from 1968-1971, finishing runner-up in the points to Hall of Famers Roger Larson in 1970 and Bill Mellenberndt in 1971. In 1971, Ross was leading the points when he broke his back in a racing accident at the Clay County Fair in Spencer, Iowa. He sat out the next three races but still had a chance at the track championship at the final race. Ross got a back brace, and borrowed John Hulsebus's car for that event, but wasn't able to win the title. Ross drove for Larry Stroman and Ron Wulf in for two years in 1972 and 1973 before teaming again with Nelsen in 1974, when he suffered a broken leg in a racing accident. He raced one more season before retiring. Ross accumulated a number of awards at Huset's, including Mechanic of the Year (four times) and Sportsman of the Year (twice). He finished in the top 10 in points every year except 1965, when he was 11th. Although a championship at Huset's narrowly eluded him, he did claim the title at Interlakes Speedway (now Lake County Speedway) in Madison, South Dakota in 1970, when he dominated the competition by winning every feature but one.