

JOHN STEVENSON

John Stevenson started his driving career in 1964 in a supermodified at Stillwater, Minnesota. He ran the supermodified throughout the late 1960s and also took his first sprint car ride in 1965 in a cageless car. He ran the cageless sprint car in IMCA fair dates at St. Paul, Minnesota, Lincoln, Nebraska, Des Moines, Iowa and Huron, South Dakota. With the No. 31 supermodified, he won track championships at Stillwater and Princeton in Minnesota and in Cedar Lake, Wisconsin. In the early 1970s he joined forces with Bernard "Beanie" Wamre and John Bethke and went sprint car racing full time. Adept with or without a wing atop, Stevenson first ran with the Minnesota-based Midwest Sprint Association and became a two-time champion with the organization. He later ran with Dave Van Patten's National Speedway Contest Association, an offshoot of the original IMCA, and won their title two years in a row in 1980 and 1981. He started running Knoxville Raceway in Iowa on a weekly basis in the early 1970s where he eventually scored 16 feature event victories and ran the prestigious Knoxville Nationals every year from 1975-1988. His best national finish was fourth in 1979 behind winner Ron Shuman, Randy Smith and Sammy Swindell. He first ran Huset's in the early 1980's, usually with his familiar No. 31 Osborne-built car but did on occasion run Lenard McCarl's No. 7X. Starting in 1984, Stevenson ran Huset's every Sunday night and was crowned sprint car champion at the end of the year. He repeated that feat in both 1985 and 1986 to become Huset's Speedway first three-time sprint car champion. In addition to his stunning achievements at Huset's, he also won the 1980 Cheaters Day event at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds. Stevenson retired from competition in 1988 and ranks 18th in career sprint car feature wins at Huset's with 15 victories.