

## **PAT MASUR**

Pat Masur was just a fan at Huset's for a number of years, bringing his family to the track for a Sunday night of entertainment on a regular basis. But when driver Gary Bott was killed in an accident at the track in May of 1976, Masur saw a need for improved rescue services at the speedway and quickly took action. The following week Masur, who was one of the first emergency medical technicians with the Sioux Falls Fire Department, founded the Huset's Speedway Rescue Squad. Aiding him at the track were his fellow firefighters as Masur used the rescue operation as a training session for the fire department. Masur's initial emergency equipment consisted of not much more than a Buick hearse, a box of Band-Aids and an oxygen tank. From those humble beginnings, he began to upgrade the equipment and the training of his fellow workers. Before the fatal Bott accident, the rescue crews' major duties were primarily to get the injured driver out of the car and transported to the hospital. Masur's training and experience elevated the rescue efforts, allowing injured drivers to immediately be treated at the track, the most crucial time in trauma care. Masur's son, Jay, eventually joined the rescue team and the pair continued to make improvements to the operation. Soon workers were stationed at each corner to enable faster responses to accidents. After John Barger's fiery crash in the early 1980s, Jay Masur wore a full fire suit to the track the following week, which eventually all the rescue workers would wear. Pat Masur, who was Fireman of the Year in Sioux Falls in 1975, lost his life to cancer in 1989. But his legacy lives on today through his son, who operates the Med-Star Race Rescue team, which financed by NASCAR star Tony Stewart and is widely considered the top short-track rescue team in the country