

RICK MIDDLEN

Rick Midden began his racing career in 1971 in the super modified class at Huset's Speedway, earning Rookie-of-the-Year honors at the track. After two years of driving his own cars, Midden spent two seasons behind the wheel of Hall of Fame member Harold Krull's machine before continuing his racing career with Dennis Mathison. A highlight of Midden's career was a racing battle with Iowan Dick Morris, one of the midwest's top drivers. The pair raced side-by-side for 10 laps before Midden pulled out the feature win. While he was racing, Midden started a new business, Corbett-Midden, a performance automotive and service store. Later, he also started Exhaust Pros, a successful line of automotive exhaust shops. As his businesses grew, Midden was forced from auto racing following the 1978 season due to insurance reasons and at the urging of his banker. However, he remained active in the sport selling speed parts and services to area racers. After ending his driving career, Midden transferred his appetite for speed to airplanes. He owned and piloted a high-powered plane that set speed records. In 1993, Midden was critically injured when his plane crashed near his hometown of Larchwood, Iowa. Through countless hours of therapy and with the aid and support of his wife, Mary, he was able to recover from some of his injuries. Ironically, Midden was raised on adjacent farms with fellow inductee John Underberg near Larchwood. As children, the pair would do anything possible to go to the races at Huset's and each had dreams of someday racing there.