



NINE RACING, INC.

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**FORD FOCUS  
DRIVER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**



# Introduction

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The Nine Racing Inc. midget racing program has been operating for 29 years fielding a championship midget racing effort for the United States Auto Club (USAC) National Midget Series. During this time period the team has earned 133 National USAC feature wins and 10 USAC National Midget Series Championships.

Drivers earning USAC championships for the Nine Racing team include: Stevie Reeves, 1993, Tony Stewart, 1995, Kenny Irwin Jr., 1996, Jason Leffler, 1998, and 1999, Kasey Kahne, 2000, Dave Darland, 2001, and 2002, J.J. Yeley, 2003 and Bobby East, 2004.

Now for the first time, Nine Racing is standing ready to offer a specialized Racing Services Program, where young and talented drivers can hone their skills and take advantage of the wealth of experience, materials, track data, and the knowledge and background of the key members of the Nine Racing team organization. The primary goal of Nine Racing, Inc. is to offer a racing services package that fits the needs of the driver-client offering the full spectrum of racing technology for both midgets and Ford Focus midgets. The following Nine Racing Ford Focus Driver Development Proposal contains all of the specifics as to what is offered by the Nine Racing team for the young driver-client who wants to start a career in professional racing and have the opportunity to learn the right approach from the beginning from an experienced team of oval racing experts.



# Nine Racing, Inc. Management Team

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## **STEVE LEWIS - FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT**

Steve Lewis started the Nine Racing, Inc. team in 1979 with driver Stan Fox, and at the same time created Laguna Coast Publishing that grew and prospered along with the midget racing team. Laguna Coast Publishing brought to the specialty niche markets *ACTION SPORTS RETAILER*, *OUTDOOR RETAILER*, and *PERFORMANCE RACING INDUSTRY* Magazines and Trade Shows. The *PERFORMANCE RACING INDUSTRY* Magazine and Trade Show grew rapidly to coincide with the rapid growth of the racing marketplace.

Steve's passion for midget racing is very much reflected in the heritage of his Nine Racing program. From the very beginning with driver Stan Fox, Nine Racing's winning heritage developed. Through the years, with a variety of drivers and crew chiefs, the Nine Racing program always came to the track prepared and ready to race and win. The results have been phenomenal, and the 133 wins and 10 National Driver and Team Championships validate the effort and management style that Steve has employed throughout the years to build the winningest team in USAC racing history.



## **RUSTY KUNZ - DIRT PROGRAM MANAGER**

Rusty Kunz has been involved in midget racing since 1969 at all levels. He has owned midgets, raced with the St. Louis Racing Association, founded MARA (Midwest Auto Racing Association), and won numerous driver and owner championships.

Rusty is known throughout the midget racing scene as an expert in dirt racing car setup and his race management skills are legendary. He has also developed quite a heritage of working with young, up-and-coming drivers by helping to develop their racing skills into championship form. Drivers Rusty has worked with through the years include: Johnny Parsons Jr., Rich Vogler, Larry Rice, Page Jones, Ricky Shelton, Jason Leffler, Tracy Hines, Sara McCune, Brian Gerster, Dave Darland, Jerry Coons Jr. and Brad Loyet. Rusty has won races with all of these drivers and many of these drivers have gone on to win championships and race and win at the upper-level racing series.

Rusty has been brought to the Nine Racing team to manage the in-shop preparation for each dirt race and will attend every dirt racing event to manage the at-track racing effort.

**DAVE STEELE - PAVEMENT PROGRAM MANAGER**

Dave Steele developed the reputation as “Mr. Pavement” having won on pavement tracks at all levels in the competitive USAC divisions, which includes the Midget, Sprint Car, and Silver Crown series. He honed his skills on the Florida pavement tracks and burst onto the USAC racing scene winning main events with ease. He claimed the largest purse ever paid for a midget race when he won the TWIN 25’s \$50,000 to win prize at Indianapolis Raceway Park (now O’Reilly Raceway Park). Dave brings special expertise for the big, high-speed pavement tracks such as ORP (O’Reilly Raceway Park), Iowa Speedway, and the mile at Phoenix International Raceway. Dave has joined the Nine Racing team to specifically manage the pavement program. He will be involved with pavement set-up and preparation. His expertise is developing a shock package designed to meet the needs of the particular pavement track large or small. Dave will attend each pavement test and all the pavement racing events, and be responsible for coordinating the at-track management and driver coaching aspect.



**BILLY WEASE – FORD FOCUS DRIVER COACH**

Local Indianapolis resident Billy Wease learned to race at the Indianapolis Speedrome first driving Kenyon Midgets then graduating to Ford Focus Midgets and on to full midgets. Billy Wease spent many nights racing at the USAC Speedrome Weekly Midget series and honed his pavement driving skills on the tight technical Speedrome ¼-mile flat paved track. Billy brings his expertise to the Nine Racing Ford Focus driver development and training program to help the young driver gain valuable experience and proper direction during the testing and Regional Racing events. Billy will be available to work with the driver–client at all of the Ford Focus test sessions as well as the racing events. So, the driver will have the opportunity to hear firsthand the proper approach as well as constructive evaluation after each test or race session.



# Nine Racing Facility

## TOUR OF THE NINE RACING FACILITY

The ultra-modern Nine Racing facility is located in Brownsburg, Indiana, in an upscale industrial park. The 6,250-square-foot race shop was purpose-built to house the team, and was completed at the start of the 2005 racing season. Every effort in the design process was made to make sure the environment of the race shop was conducive to an organized workflow



with plenty of space for storage of the race vehicles as

well as the team hauler. Incorporated into the design of the race facility is a complete machine shop and fabricating area. The main floor work area features mechanics' stations and a special flooring insert that protects the glistening epoxy floor. The upstairs area houses the extensive spare parts inventory. The team managers have an office that overlooks the work area, while a conference room allows engineers and mechanics to meet and create in a quality atmosphere.



# Nine Racing Ford Focus Driver Development Approach

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Nine Racing, Inc. will provide a complete turnkey racing service for young junior drivers who want to learn the art of oval racing in a Ford Focus midget in the USAC Regional Ford Focus Series, of which most of the racing events are scheduled at the Indianapolis Speedrome. A BEAST Ford Focus pavement chassis fitted with a new Roush-Yates Ford Focus engine will be provided for the test and race events.

## **NINE RACING, INC. SERVICES TO INCLUDE:**

- Provide race preparation services for all the Ford Focus test and race sessions.
- Provide (1) set of new tires for each test session.
- Provide (2) sets of new tires for each race event.
- All regularly expected race car maintenance (not crash damage) expenses to be included in racing services fee.
- Provide extensive spare parts inventory for all at-track events.
- Transport race vehicle to all test sessions and race events.
- Apply driver sponsor logo identification and decal scheme to race vehicle.
- Nine Racing, Inc. responsible for payment of all track rental fees for test sessions to be reimbursed by client.

## **ITEMS NOT INCLUDED**

- Crash-damaged parts and certain labor expenses to be reimbursed by driver-client.



# Conclusion and Summary

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The primary objective of the Nine Racing Team will be to provide young junior drivers with the opportunity to test, race and win in the competitive USAC Regional Ford Focus series, and to further develop their racing skills into championship form. The timing is perfect and all the elements are in place by the Nine Racing team organization to provide these young driver candidates every opportunity to learn how to approach racing on ovals in a safe environment with excellent instruction and track support and to be able to hone their skills to a level where the drivers will be competitive and be able to compete for wins in the Regional Ford Focus series in a reasonable time.

All of the assets of the Nine Racing, Inc. organization will be applied to this Ford Focus Driver Development Program. The Nine Racing, Inc. Brownsburg facility is truly a state-of-the-art facility and racing operation. The shop is fully equipped with every single piece of equipment needed to prepare, service and maintain the race vehicles. Team manager Glenn Martin and driver coach Billy Wease are standing ready to offer their knowledge and services totally dedicated to giving young drivers the tools needed to be competitive at each and every test and racing event.

The strength of the Nine Racing organization over the years has been the meticulous approach of preparation, engineering and the at-track management so the end result is the drivers will be able to take full advantage of all this experience and materials and will be able to perform up to expectations as a result.

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