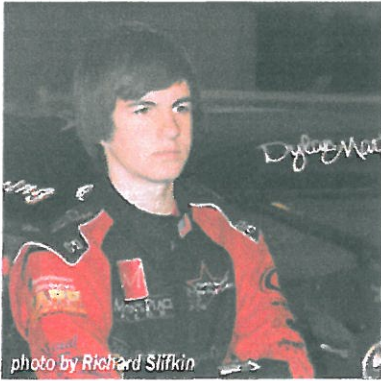
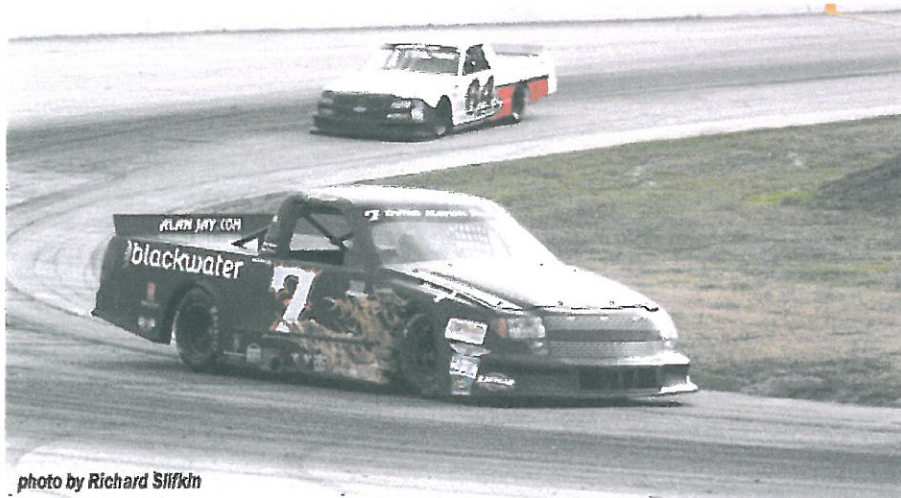


## A commitment to racing and the team to help him succeed



Fifteen year old Dylan Martin, like many other young race drivers, has aspirations to reach the upper levels of NASCAR competition. His aspirations are backed by a strong commitment, and perhaps just as importantly, by a great team in place to help him achieve success. After all, early in his career Jeff Gordon said "Teamwork is everything. It takes all of us, working together. We win and lose together."

Dylan is a driver in the Florida United Promoters Series Pro Truck Division. His no. 7 Blackwater Integration truck will compete at tracks throughout Florida this year. He started the season with a strong fourth place finish at Auburndale Speedway in March. Additionally, Dylan is planning several races in the Sportsman Division and recently tested a Sportsman car at the fast 1/2 mile track at New Smyrna Speedway. In his first visit to the track, and only his second time ever in a Sportsman, after only about 10 laps he was running only slightly off recent pole qualifying times. This year he also plans on making some test drives in a late model in preparation of running late model races next year. However, Dylan's commitment to motorsports goes far beyond the track. He is very involved in helping several charities and non-profit organizations that he makes frequent appearances for. In fact, he was recognized by Bay News 9 (Tampa, FL) as a local Everyday Hero for his many contributions to the community and beyond. To make time for everything Dylan has given up the school life of the typical teenager in favor of the flexible scheduling provided by an online education.



Keeping Dylan involved and on schedule is the job of Kim Scheffler, a vital part of Dylan's team. Kim is the team PR Manager, and her responsibilities include everything from calling the national headquarters of T.A.D.D., Teens Against Distracted Driving, to suggest Dylan as a spokesperson, to recording practice lap times trackside, to making sure their hauler hospitality area is top-notch. Kim is a former driver herself, with feature wins in several series, multiple series rookie of the year honors, a track points championship, a regional points championship and many other accomplishments. Kim's knowledge of multiple series and many acquaintances in all levels of competition will certainly be an asset to Dylan as his career progresses. She is currently working on plans with NASCAR Sprint Cup driver David Reutimann on ways he can help mentor

Dylan.

Another vital part of Dylan's team is his crew chief, Chad Pierce. Chad is also a driver and can easily relate to what Dylan is experiencing since he himself has been racing since the age of 14. Chad began his driving career in central Florida and has dozens of victories in almost every class including Late Model, Super Late Model, Modified, Pro Trucks, Sportsman, Mini Stock and Super Stock. Chad has also worked as a professional stunt driver and has been an instructor for the Richard Petty Driving Experience at both Daytona International Speedway and Walt Disney World Speedway.

Of course Dylan's team also includes his family, who support his driving ambitions 100%. On the day that I visited the team at the track his parents and both of his older siblings were there. They cheered him on as he started 11th in a field of 16 trucks, then battled his way, after being sent to the rear of the pack mid-race for being involved in an incident, to a 4th place finish. Dylan's favorite two NASCAR drivers are Kyle Busch and Jimmy Johnson, and he says his driving style is a mix of the two. He hopes that style will lead him to a career in racing. As this 15-year-old gets behind the wheel of multiple race cars this season, there are no better words than those in his bio on his website to sum up my feelings: "here is the time he learns the ropes and tricks. Here on the track, is where his passion for racing explodes. Here, in the small town of Lakeland, FL, is where a legend is being born."

For more information on Dylan, including the charities he supports visit his website at [dylanmartinracing.com](http://dylanmartinracing.com)

*by Richard Slifkin*