

FRIDAY NIGHT THUNDER SEASON 2 - PROMO MATERIALS

Driver Bios

Glenn Styres

Race Number: #0

Class: 360 Sprint

Team: GSR (Glenn Styres Racing)

Glenn Styres, also known as The Ohsweken Flyer, #0, is the track owner, multiple-time promoter of the year and self-made business magnate. He is also arguably the winningest and most thrilling driver of Ohsweken Speedway history. But in 2019, Glenn took a break from racing. And he did not like it. In fact, Glenn sat in the stands, week after week, cheering on all the Glenn Styres Racing team members with a brave face, but he was anything but thrilled. Through it all, Glenn was secretly going through some personal misery from the sidelines. So he got back into it, against the advice of doctors, family and friends. He got a brand new car together for the final race of the season at the 2019 Canadian Sprint Car Nationals. The car didn't perform well, but Glenn appeared to be ten feet taller. It was exactly the release Glenn needed and it showed him that being in the car is embedded in his DNA. Glenn needs to drive. And Glenn needs to win. So after COVID-19 derailed the entire 2020 and 2021 seasons at Ohsweken Speedway, Glenn decided to make the most of that time. He sunk millions into his race track, making it safer, adding VIP suites and more facilities. He expanded the campgrounds and parking areas around the track and set up some new business, like an auto parts shop.

Glenn has been working out and eating right and he's ready to race. He has a new crew chief and they'll be celebrating their 20th anniversary, which was postponed due to the pandemic. He has also been inducted into the Canadian Motorsports Hall of Fame 2022 and will be showing us all season long why he is so deserving of the honour through the huge events and spectacular racing shows he has planned for all of his returning drivers and fans.

Glenn might be the businessman who has it all, but there's one thing Glenn feels incomplete without and that's racing. So he'll be at the Chili Bowl this year in Tulsa, duking it out with some of the best and getting in shape for a winning 2022 season at Ohsweken Speedway. Glenn is not out due to retirement and he won't be until he decides it is time to do so. Until then, he has some races to win, and he plans on doing just that. So buckle in, 2022 with Glenn Styres is going to be a wild ride!

Aaron Turkey, #68

Race Number: #68

Class: 360 Sprint

Team: GSR (Glenn Styres Racing)

Aaron Turkey is #68 on GSR in the 360 class and is Glenn's 1st cousin. His Grandfather, Frankie Turkey, died at just 27 years old in a car accident, but before his death was the person responsible for introducing Glenn to the world of racing. The colour orange, prevalent at Ohsweken Speedway was inspired by and remains a tribute to the late Frankie Turkey. Aaron raced in the Crate Sprint series since 2014 with 7 career wins. Although favored for the championship in the crate division in 2019, Glenn chose to promote Aaron to the 360 class, gifting him with his old sprint car. So rather than go into 2019 on the hunt for a championship, he entered as a rookie in a tougher class, and it was nothing short of tough. Aaron and his team had a lot of challenges in the shop, in the pits and on the oval. Aaron crashed a few cars, costing Glenn tens of thousands in repairs and replacements and his team seemed to struggle with the car all year. Halfway through the season, Glenn discovered that Aaron was setting up his car all wrong and he was disappointed that Aaron wasn't spending more time in the shop or in the gym. Aaron was also working away from home so he had to be away each week and show up just in time for racing, putting his whole team at a disadvantage. Aaron did manage his first 360 win at Merritville Speedway during a very truncated pandemic racing season in 2020. He also has a son who arrived to him and girlfriend Madison in October 2020 and they're pregnant with their second child who will be born just before the 2022 season gets underway. Going in to 2022, Aaron has a lot of improvements to make to satisfy Glenn, who wants to see more wins out of his young protégé.

Alex Hill

Race Number: #77x

Class: 360 Sprint

Team: Hill's Racing

Alex Hill, 21, is a student at California State University and is the first Indigenous woman to compete in the American Sprint Car Series tour. She is also only the fourth woman in the 26-year history of the ASCS to complete the tour. She has won several races and has competed among some of the best in the sport but she had some very difficult crashes in her 2018 season, resulting in some hesitant and shaky performances in 2019. While she seemed to be up against a lot of car troubles in 2019, it was her confidence that was her biggest challenge. She showed well at a couple races, specifically at the Summer Nationals at Ohsweken, where she passed 8 cars to take second in her heat race. For that race she garnered the Hard Charger award, but she failed to capture a checkered flag in a feature race in 2019. According to Alex, she "got her lady balls back" in 2019 after shaking down her car and herself for the whole season. She didn't manage a win on the tour in 2021 but she did place in the top five a couple of times in feature races, won a few heats and ended the season in the top 10 of the ASCS. But this year, we will find out if Alex is going to continue to drive in the American Sprint Car Series. Her father and team owner, Miles Hill, who finances Alex's racing program, has said he supports any decision Alex will make. Racing has been a foundation of Alex's relationship with her dad for many years and that is the only thing keeping Alex from leaving the tour, although she has expressed interest in racing locally, so it will be a very nice surprise for local audiences and our viewers if the hometown girl decides to come back to her home track and make all the boys cry again!

Matthew and Joshua Hill (The Hill Brothers)

Race Number: Matthew #MK8 / Joshua #99

Class: Crate Sprint

Team: Hill Bros Racing

These tight knit brothers field two Crate Sprint cars fighting for their chance to win a feature race. They are a hilarious and lovable duo that struggle to compete each week with little resources.

Joshua had a very eventful sophomore crate sprint season and showed incredible improvement in 2021, but he's still on the hunt for a win in 2022. Before the pandemic shut down Ohsweken Speedway for the 2020 and 2021 seasons, Joshua was looking forward to securing his first win. Instead, 2020 served up COVID-19 and he stacked up money he would have normally spent on racing and got himself a new companion, a shar pei dog named Stanley. Behind the scenes in 2019, Joshua's personal life was changing considerably but he did not share any of that. Despite very difficult personal circumstances, Joshua showed up every Friday to race, as though it was a therapy of sorts. Having saved a lot of money during the pandemic, Joshua raced alongside his brother Matthew at tracks around Ontario as part of the Action Sprint Tour. In 2021, both brothers improved but by the end of their seasons neither of them had won an A Main. As a driver entrenched in his community and with an eye on serving the greater community, Joshua is sure to take up a cause, promote an effort or share in his own good fortune like he did so many times in our first two seasons. He and Matt lost a close family member whom Joshua emotionally memorialized on his car with the #99 and had a run of really great finishes.

Matthew wants a win too, but he will easily admit that he's at the track for the fun. He just loves talking to everyone, lending a hand, borrowing tools, bumming some gear lube...whatever takes him out of his pit and into social times with fellow racers, that's all that matters! But he would like to show better in 2022 after a lacklustre 2021 season that was marred with fear and anxiety over previous crashes and injuries.

Derek Miller

Race Number: #38

Class: Crate Sprint

Team: Terry Martin Racing

Derek is a crate sprint driver who began racing in 2011 in the thunderstock class. He moved to the crate sprints in 2017 for five races and a full sprint season in 2018. Derek is racing for Terry Martin Racing, a team owned by his uncle Terry (Tunes) Martin. Derek discovered he was a third generation driver when another uncle told him one day that his grandfather, Maynard, raced Midget cars in State Fairs in the United States. Maynard took up the sport in the early 50s, likely to cope with PTSD after flying Lancaster Bombers for the Canadian Air Force in WW2.

Derek's father, Martin Miller, was a renowned mechanic in the area and was well-known throughout the community for having the fastest cars and did occasionally show up at the drag strip. Sadly, Derek's father was killed in a car accident at age 26. The death sparked a fear that Derek needed to conquer. He made music fuelled by heartache and then one day just decided to start racing with the help of his uncle Tunes. They continue to work as a team along with Melissa Miller (Squeal), Derek's cousin, who races thunderstock class. In 2019, Derek needed to deal with the lingering fear he continued to experience in the car and was shaken up pretty bad mid-season from a very bad crash. His car was destroyed but he was able to get a new car together for the Canadian Sprint Car Nationals at the end of the season. Going into 2021, Derek will need to shake down his new car and get some seat time behind that wheel so he has a fighting chance at a win in his fourth year of racing.

He'll have to shake off some of that lingering anxiety from his crash to make a run at a checkered flag and he'll need to get in the shop and learn more about the car so he can set it up better. In 2019, Derek was mainly on his own and struggled every week to get his car out on the track. It was exhausting, especially with the toll of performing music all over Canada and the US while working on the car and racing. He has been using the time off during the pandemic to build an iRacing Simulator to keep himself limber and he is spending time with a crew chief who will be showing him around the car and hopefully give him an edge in the next season.

Allan Downey

Race Number: #19D

Class: Crate

Team: Malyk-Downey Racing (MDR)

Allan Downey burst on to the racing scene in 2019 at Ohsweken Speedway but didn't win a crate feature until the 2020 pandemic season at Merritville. He won again at Humberstone speedway in 2020 while being filmed for Friday Night Thunder, Season 2, making him the first cast member on the show to win a race in 26 episodes. Allan races with the help of his wife/team owner, Aimee Malyk who lights up the screen with her enthusiasm and passion for the sport, all with her new baby in tow. Allan holds a PhD in History and is a professor at Waterloo University in History and Indigenous Studies. Allan placed second in the Action Sprint Tour and he was very close to winning the championship. After losing his dad in 2020, Allan is feeling down about racing without him and is questioning whether he will return to racing in 2022 but we hope he will because he brings a lot of excitement and anticipation to the oval.

Johnny “The Iceman” Miller

Race Number: #20

Class: Crate

Team: GSR (Glenn Styres Racing)

Johnny started in the crate class at Ohsweken in 2017. By 2019 he had the track figured out and was starting to win. Then, due to COVID, he was forced to race at other tracks, to varying degrees of success and no feature wins. Now Johnny and his dad (Johnny Sr.), are hinting that he might be moving up to the 360 class, driving for GSR! At this point, it's just chatter. But, Glenn Styres recently admitted openly that this is the plan, which is HUGE news for Johnny who will have a new car, racing in a whole new class in 2022. There's a lot to watch here and it's going to be a wild ride.

Eric Ashton Vanevery

Race Number: #77E

Class: Crate

Team: Hills Racing

They call him “Pimpin”, and only because he always seems to have girls hanging out with him. Ok, it is not an appropriate moniker for a 15-year-old but the truth is, girls are always hanging out with him! Ashton is going into his second season in Crate sprints in 2022, but he did very well in his debut season, especially considering he had to quickly navigate numerous new tracks with Ohsweken remaining closed for the season. Ashton made some features in his first season and there's no doubt he'll do it again in 2022.

The Nanticoke Brothers

Brian “Crow” Nanticoke

Race Number: #9C

Class: Crate

Team: Nanticoke Motosports

Brian has been racing for a long time, first on pavement and now in the Crate division on dirt. He is a very spirited driver with a lot of drive to win that sometimes gets him in trouble on the track. Season 2 saw some fun moments with Brian, like when he ran his car right into a pear tree during hot laps on his first night at the races. He usually has his grandson, Haedyn, in tow with him, as it is their thing...racing is what bonds them. Brian is a very expressive and very interesting character with perspective we don't see from our other drivers. With a few more years experience in racing and life, he brings a nice balance to our stories and we're excited to watch him stir up some antics on the track again in 2022.

Dan “Hodge” Nanticoke

Race Number: #15

Class: 360

Team: Nanticoke Motorsports, Nitro54

Dan is a local businessman that has done very well for himself. His company, Nitro54 can support his very costly racing hobby. He has also raced for many years, like his brother. He drives in the 360 class and has had trouble moving up the line. With a few years experience, he is frustrated with his slow progression in sprint car racing, especially after having flipped several times during 2021. His emotions were starting to show at the end of 2021, so we will see how he fares in 2022.