

FRIDAY NIGHT THUNDER SEASON 3 DRIVER BIOGRAPHIES

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. 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.

In the fall of 2022, Glenn rolled out the first chassis his company has built under GSR Chassis. These distinct blue chrome-effect chassis are the first race cars to be built on Indigenous territory and yet another innovation by Glenn Styres Racing. Friday Night Thunder will take an inside look at this operation and get the inside scoop on how a race car is built from zero.

Glenn might be the businessman who has it all, but there's one thing Glenn feels incomplete without and that's racing. He didn't perform so well in 2022 at his track or the neighbouring tracks. He just couldn't find the right groove with his crew chief or his set ups. So, he'll be getting seat time in the off-season to prepare for what he hopes to be a much more successful season at Ohsweken Speedway in 2023.

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. Aaron raced in the Crate Sprint series since 2014 with 7 career wins. Although favoured 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 welcomed their second son in October 2021. He finished 7th on the Ohsweken Speedway leaderboard with a best feature finish of second place. This just simply won't be acceptable to Aaron who will be back with his two best crew members, Riley and Wes, in 2023 to win some races at his home track 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, 22, is a graduate of California State University and is the first Indigenous woman to compete in the American Sprint Car Series tour. She is also 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 the 2021 season also presented a lot of problems for her after a series of tough crashes that resulted in extreme panic and anxiety attacks. She posted on her social media that she had to pull out of a race due to a panic attack and received much support from the racing community. After undergoing regular therapy, Alex decided that she would face her fear and race one time in 2022 at the Winter Nationals at Devil's Bowl Speedway in Mesquite, Texas. It was a tense start and it took Alex a lot of strength to face her fear and get her car on the track. She didn't manage to get into a feature race, but she did post the quick time in her qualifying group on the second night of the event. To Alex, just getting back out there was a triumph. And it's also a triumph for her that she conquered her fear and actually raced again. In Season 4, we'll find out if Alex decides to race at all for her dad's race team, or if her nerves will once again get the better of her.

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 still couldn't take a checkers in 2022, which turned out to be a pretty disastrous season for him. 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 even though he didn't have high expectations, Matt did very well and won a couple of B-Mains. He was passing more and taking more risks on the oval. It appears Matt is back and it'll be very interesting to see what he does in 2023 at Ohsweken Speedway.

In the 2022 season, the Hill Bros donated 60 lacrosse sticks and balls to kids attending the races at Ohsweken Speedway. As usual, the boys show that their heart and their desire to help their community are even more important than winning a race. They are sure to be back in 2023 with more lacrosse sticks and good deeds for the kids.

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 thunder stock class. He moved to the crate sprints in 2017. He now races for Derek Miller Racing.

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. 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 in the thunder stock 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. Going in to 2021, Derek needed to shake down his new car and get some seat time so he would have a fighting chance at a win in his fourth season. His best finish was 5th at the Southern Ontario Motor Speedway.

With some lingering anxiety issues to deal with, Derek took some time off in 2022 to focus on himself. He did decide to race only one day in August and did well, making it into the feature from his heat. He ended up middle of the pack in the feature but he was happy with just loading up the car at the end of the night without damage. He also shared his memories of his friend, Ricky Joseph, who died in a motocross accident back when Derek was a teenager. Ricky was a major influence on Derek, who still admires his prowess to this day and misses him very much.

Derek is sure that he'll be back racing all summer in 2023 at Ohsweken Speedway and he is on a mission to raise money for the Mohawk-immersion school at Six Nations.

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 Merrittville Speedway. He won again at Humberstone Speedway in 2021 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 was feeling down about racing without him and questioned whether he would return to racing in 2022 but he did and he did not disappoint. Allan showed a different side of himself when he got caught up in a rivalry with another driver. Hopefully Allan won't have to race with that other driver again, now that he's made the huge decision to move up to the 360 class for the 2023 season.

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. 2022 didn't see a whole lot of action at the front for Johnny, but he did have the chance to race in a 360 once for the GSR team and he loved it. But, Johnny has decided he still needs to prove himself in the crate division before he can seriously consider moving up a class. Hopefully we'll see a feature win for Johnny in 2023.

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 brought a nice balance to our stories in 2022 and we expect his grounding experience to bring the same energy to the pits again in 2023.

Victor Bomberry

Race Number: #420

Class: Crate

Team: Bomberry Racing

Victor Bomberry, #420, is Cayuga Nation, Wolf Clan, from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. He is a pure rookie that races for his first time ever at Ohsweken Speedway in the 2022 season. His team is Bomberry Racing and his crew chief is Jordan Hill who, in previous seasons raced in the #28 crate sprint car. Victor is a well-known community member who helms the business empire left to him and his siblings by their late father, Victor (aka Yogi) Bomberry, who passed away more than 10 years ago. At only 29 years old, Victor has continued to establish businesses like the LevelUp cannabis dispensary and he is expecting his first child in 2023. He is proudly sober after abusing alcohol and drugs for many years and has a fearless approach to any challenge that he takes on in business and life.