

FRIDAY NIGHT THUNDER SEASON 3 SYNOPSIS

Written by: Laura Milliken

One Liner

Friday Night Thunder is back with all the drama-fuelled adrenaline of the only Indigenous sprint car racers in the world.

Short Description

Friday Night Thunder returns to Ohsweken Speedway after a two-year closure to the excitement of the Indigenous sprint car drivers that race there every week in one of the speediest, most dangerous motorsports to be found anywhere in the world.

Long Description

The Indigenous sprint car drivers of Six Nations are excited to finally be returning to their home track after a two-year closure. These drivers have to relearn how to tackle this track, that seems to throw most of them for a loop at the start of the season. As the season wears on, some drivers seem to get the hang of the track while for other drivers, there's upsets, crashes and heartache that hits the wallet and the leaderboard.

There are 11 Indigenous sprint car drivers featured in Season 3: Victor Bomberry (#420), Glenn Styres (#0), Alex Hill (#77x), Aaron Turkey (#68), Joshua Hill (#99), Matt Hill (#MK8), Derek Miller (#38), Johnny Miller (#20), Ashton Vanevery (#77E), Brian Nanticoke (#9C) and the only Indigenous driver who isn't from Six Nations, Allan Downey (19D).

With varying degrees of experience and financial support, all of these drivers experience their own ups and downs throughout the season which include crashes, mechanical failures, beefs with other drivers, complaints with track management and communication and personal challenges.

Alex Hill has been very open about her anxiety issues that kept her out of racing for over a year and we join her on her first race in 13 months, where she has a panic attack prior to going into her hot laps and unfortunately heard terrible news after the race regarding the death of another female sprint car driver.

Glenn Styres grapples with continued issues in his crew and with his set ups, experiencing a lot of disappointments in the car throughout the season, while he also manages the track operations. He and his daughters share some of the challenges they faced as a family while establishing the speedway, and we meet his mother, who passes away during the pandemic.

Allan Downey has what could be considered his worst season yet. He has trouble on the track, trouble off the track with another driver and is perceived to have taken retaliation on another driver, which causes a lot of contentious debate in the pits.

Derek Miller shares a tearful moment with the mother of his friend who passed away over 30 years ago in a motocross accident. Ricky Joseph was a gifted motocross racer who showed Derek the ropes of the sport when they were just teenagers and his death has never stopped affecting Derek who still deeply mourns his loss.

Victor Bomberry opens up about his own struggles with alcohol and drugs and remembers his father, Victor AKA Yogi who passed away in his early 50s from alcohol abuse. But his father was also a gifted entrepreneur that left Victor and his siblings an empire that Victor is running, along with his new businesses like the LevelUp cannabis dispensary. Victor hits the track in his #420 car with absolutely zero racing experience and dazzles everyone with his immediate aptitude and fearlessness.

Aaron Turkey is a hometown hero when NASCAR Canada comes to Ohsweken for the country's first NASCAR race on dirt. Aaron takes home a top honour on night one of the race and makes a very respectable showing in the field after much drama throughout the 100 lap race.

In among these banner stories, all of the drivers experience the ongoing highs and lows of racing, the financial burdens, the time demands that take away from other priorities and the general internal struggles that all racers experience in the sport.

Sprint car racing is a very fast and very dangerous open wheel motorsport on dirt and arguably the most exciting racing around. And *Friday Night Thunder* doesn't miss even one moment of excitement that these Indigenous sprint car racers experienced in their first season back at Ohsweken Speedway, the premier, and only Indigenous-owned, dirt motorsport facility in Canada.