

Dick Anderson – The King of the Florida Short Tracks



One of the often-repeated phrases in racing over the years—especially by racers at the top of their game—goes like this: “It ain’t bragging if you can do it!” Although he may never have actually said that, any set of Florida stock car statistics would bear witness to the fact that Dick Anderson would have license to voice that phrase.

With over a thousand feature wins in a racing career that spanned a forty-year period, Anderson has earned—over and over—the title “King of the Florida Short Tracks.” He began his career in the Quarter Midget ranks at age 12, and launched his stock car

career in 1964 at age 16 at Hialeah Speedway driving a 1949 Ford. Although predominantly known as a Florida driver, his career featured racing success at a host of Midwest and Northern states.

But it’s not just the total number of wins he’s compiled, it’s the dominance that he and his No. 92 have displayed throughout the years that have earned him the respect (oftentimes grudgingly) of his fellow competitors. In 1979, for example, he won 39 feature events at race tracks throughout Florida, setting an all-time state record. The following year, he topped that win total with 51 feature wins (out of the 64 events he entered—an 80% rate), becoming the nation’s winningest stock car driver. That same year, he stunned Palm Beach Speedway by winning every feature event held at the track that year... an incredible 18 feature wins in a row!

In 1983, Anderson took his show on the road, so to speak, joining the All Pro Racing Association’s national touring series. The domination continued as he found immediate success in the 50-driver series, winning races in Florida and Georgia, placing fifth in the overall points standings, and matching the series’ record for pole wins at seven. But he didn’t abandon his Florida racing roots, and continued to regularly campaign on the short tracks, adding continuously to an ever-growing list of accomplishments. For example:

- In the 1970s, he competed in dirt modified leagues in the northeast (New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and was crowned Rookie of the Year at Nazareth (PA) Raceway in 1974
- In the 1980s, he captured multiple Late Model Championships at West Palm Beach Speedway and Hialeah Speedway
- In 1985, he captured the late model Championship at Bronson Speedway, winning 16 of 20 feature events (including eight straight)
- He’s won Florida’s most prestigious stock car races:
 - The Marion Edwards 200 at Hialeah (1986)
 - The Florida Governor’s Cup (1988 and 1989)
 - Multiple major Pro Stock features at Volusia Speedway Park in 1989
 - The World Series of Asphalt Championship at New Smyrna Speedway (1989)
 - Winningest Driver at the World Series of Asphalt at New Smyrna Speedway (1994)

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- In 1994, he was crowned the Florida Pro Series Champion, and was recognized as the winningest driver in that series
- In the 1990s, he competed in the NASCAR Slim Jim series, winning multiple times
- In 1995 and 1996, he was the winningest driver in the Hooters Pro Cup series
- In 2001 (his last full year of competition), he captured the Florida Pro series championship, the FASCAR Late Model championship, and the FASCAR Triple Crown, winning 26 of 36 special events and earning the “Driver of the Year” designation

In addition to his on-track dominance, Anderson has had through the years a nice "used car" business selling his previously- run Late Models stock cars to fellow competitors. Known as "Dicky cars," these Anderson-engineered race machines brought tremendous success to many other racers in Florida and surrounding states.

In 2006, after taking a short sabbatical, Anderson returned briefly to competition in the Late Model ranks, winning features at Columbia Speedway and Orlando Speedworld—the only two events he entered. If there were any fears that his driving skills had eroded, they were quickly swept away by his winning these two events in dominant fashion. The man was back...if only for a cameo appearance.



Anderson at the All American 400 (Nashville) - 1986

From 2006 through 2009, Anderson focused most of his racing expertise on the development and nurturing of several up-and-coming Florida racers. He found immediate success with young Loxahatchee driver Jeff Choquette, winning major events at a variety of tracks, including the 2007 Governor's Cup at New Smyrna Speedway. Along the way, he's also engineered cars for emerging drivers like David Wilson, Matt Bowers, Todd Alan, and Jessica Murphy, to name a few. So even if he's not behind the wheel, he's still adding to his incredible collection of Florida stock car racing accomplishments.

But wait...there's more! As 2010 unfolds, Dick Anderson is contemplating another return to competition, and has been fine-tuning a brand new version of his famed No. 92. As of this writing, no firm event entries have been finalized, but rest assured that when he feels the time is right, he will hit the asphalt and once again rally his immense fan base.