

A Dauer of a different color?

Photos and Story
by Terry Spradley

On any given Saturday night, several yellow cars can be seen circling the speedway. There is a Dauer in the yellow L99, a Dauer in the yellow R99; there is even a Dauer in the #33 of the hobby stock class. On most Saturday nights, there is also a Dauer of a different color rounding the dirt circle.

Rick Dauer, Lindsborg, runs the T99 IMCA Modified with a little different tint. "I always kind of like the red and white color," Dauer said. "All my life, I've had red and white pick-ups. The painter that does my lettering loves when you go white on the sides because he can do so much more color. There were also so many yellow cars out there it was hard to keep track of them all. I'm sure it took Loren and Ron a week or two to figure out if I was going by them or not."

The 49-year-old Dauer is one of the original four Dauers that burned up dirt tracks driving the yellow Chevrolets in the early 70's. The foursome was made up of Rick, his 2 brothers, Ron and Bob and the trio's father, LeRoy Dauer. Even back then, Rick was campaigning for a color change. "I wanted to go red, white, and blue," Dauer said. "Dad said, 'you will not, you will be yellow!' Well, I own this car now; I'll be any color I want, and he loves it. He comes out every two weeks. We do his laundry. I tell him all the updates about the races."

"My dad helped me quite a bit, staying everything I've ever done. He is probably the main instigator for me staying in this thing period. He acknowledged what I was doing," - Dauer pauses for a moment - "and paid attention to the results, you know."

Father and son had some impressive wins during the early years. "We won a race at Belleville," Dauer said. "If you win any kind of race at Belleville, they tell me now, to stamp it in stone because it is hard to ever do. We did it. We did it one time, my dad and I, which was amazing to both of us, because we were told we weren't going to win the race. There are too many famous people that have won there. I can clearly put it in stone that I have."

The early late models went through many changes. Team Dauer did as well. Some years they would sit out for lack of money, time or enthusiasm. Some years, one or more would strike out on their own. In 1991, Dauer climbed out of the driver's seat for what seemed to be the last time.

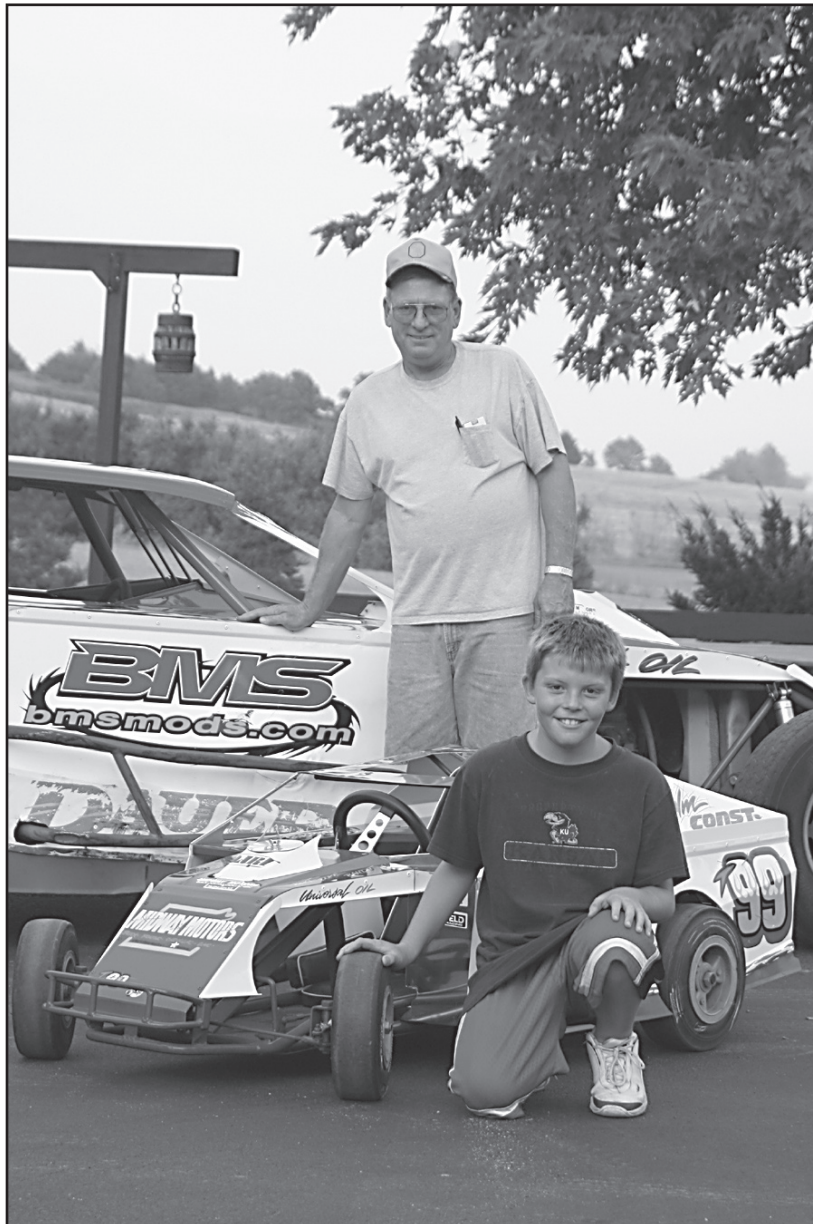
"I sold the Late Model that I had, bought a lawnmower and mowed for eleven years," Dauer said. "Then we decided to kind of get back into this thing." The lawnmower turned out to be a John Deere. It is also painted with the T99, and Dauer's preferred color scheme. "Everything we own is painted up," Rick's wife Bernita said.

Dauer returned to the race scene three years ago. His crew at the track consists of his brother Bob Dauer, and his nephew Beau Dauer, both of Marquette. His 10-year-old son, Tucker, is one of Dauer's main helpers.

"I've got my son here that helps me an awful lot too," Dauer said. "When I'm down and out, my son goes with, Tucker goes with." Tucker helps unload the car, scale the car, and set the car up. "Tucker's helped me for a couple of years," Dauer said. "When it comes to the front end, I can't do it because he has to do it," Bernita said. Dauer's two daughters, 23-year-old Tiffany, Salina, and 20-year-old Tasha, McPherson are two of their dad's loyal fans watching most races from the stands near the exit of turn four.

Born in Lindsborg, raised in Falun, Dauer is currently the manager of Smoky Valley Feedlot. He started there almost at its inception. He helped construct it during his high school years, and worked there on weekends during his stint in the U.S. Army. "I would come home on weekends and work at the feedlot," Dauer said.

The white 99 with red decking has an extensive list of sponsors that help with the cost of running an IMCA Modified for a season. Town & Country Repair, Lindsborg, - Rick's brother, Ron Dauer - Peterson Electric,



Rick and Tucker, (kneeling), Dauer pose beside their respective race cars. Tucker has proven to be a valuable member of his Dad's pit crew.

Salina, Dauer Welding, Lindsborg, Universal Oil, Sartec Corporation and Isaacson Truckline Inc, Salina keep the red on the white out of the red and on the track.

Dauer's main sponsor is Midway Motors, McPherson. "I buy all my vehicles from Midway Motors," Dauer said. "That guy, he's probably been the best guy I've ever dealt with on racing." That guy is Steve Bloomberg, a partner of Midway Motors. "Him and his wife Brooke have been really good to us. They're not just a businessman selling me a vehicle; they've turned into really good friends of ours."

Bloomberg said, "He, [Rick] is a really good guy."

It can sometimes take an extensive group of sponsors to keep a Dauer on the track. The first BMS modified that Dauer brought home ended up needing some unscheduled repairs due to a short flight coming out of turn four.

"Totaled out the car, hit my own brother. Ron had to pull down because he could see a wreck happening. I couldn't see the wreck. Ronny came down, I hit his tire, it sure enough knocked me out." Bernita said, "You've never seen a car go so straight in the air."

Dauer, like many of the drivers, is a superstitious person. "I do everything but wear my underwear backwards, to drive the thing," Dauer said. "Before we leave the house we look at each other's shirts (to see what they're wearing). We've had success in certain colors."

Dauer is also a man that just enjoys having a good time at the racetrack. Whether driving or watching he makes the most of it. One year, at the Kansas Speedway he bought a sombrero, guitar and set of 'Billy-Bob' teeth for him and his sister Cindy Opat, Lindsborg. "We did a heck of a show that night. We had them in the back of the pick-up, and walking around the [speedway] island, singing. At a race period, in my whole life that was probably one of the best weekends I've had, was with my sister Cindy."

Although a Dauer of a different color, Rick, like his brother Ron, enjoys telling a tale or two. He also enjoys pulling your leg. Crickets started tuning up for their nightly serenade as Rick starts into a tall-tale. "I remember this one Busch race I was in..." Wife Bernita stops him with a playful, "aw shut-up!"

Spinning tales, spinning wheels, or wandering around the pits singing Mexican tunes with his sister, Rick Dauer and other area drivers are always ready to entertain the crowd Saturday nights at Salina Speedway. Photographs of recent races may be viewed online at www.tslegends.com.



Rick Dauer's IMCA Modified racer, (foreground, above), can usually be found right in the middle of the action at every race he is in at the Salina Speedway.

2005 Point Standings after 7-16-05

- IMCA Modifieds**
1. Gary Clements, Minneapolis 405; 2. Brian Knoell, Falun 397; 3. Ron Dauer, Lindsborg 387; 4. Danny Morrison, Jr., Minneapolis 384; 5. Corey Lagroon, Salina 380.
- Super Stock**
1. Jeff Hilt, Salina 467; 2. Tom Hilt, Lindsborg 458; 3. Ryan Riarden, Salina 450; 4. Warren Huffman, Salina 441; 5. Brent Fielder, Chapman 433.
- 360 Modifieds**
1. Gary Rohloff, Jr., Salina 404; 2. Craig Colgin, Canton 400;

3. G.W. Fuller, Tescott 380; 4. Jeff Welsh, Wiley 375; 5. Jason Lucas, Manhattan 342.

IMCA Hobby Stock

1. (tie) Rick Slothower, Gypsum and Tony Slothower, Salina 479; 2. John Berry, Salina 443; 4. David Weber, Delphos 426; 5. Bill Clanton, Salina 411.

Mini Stock

1. Jeanie Rodie, Hoisington 404; 2. Stacey Fuller, Tescott 391; 3. Anthony Engling, Salina 386; 4. Andrew Engling, Natoma 364; 5. Doug Baccus, Ada 363.

July 16, 2005 results

IMCA MODIFIEDS

- A feature** - 1. Jeff Welsh; 2. Jeff Olson; 3. Dean Brungardt. **First Qualifying feature** - 1. Jerry Phillips; 2. Danny Morrison, Jr.; 3. Ron Dauer. **Second Qualifying feature** - 1. Corey Lagroon; 2. Squirt Betzner; 3. Brian Knoell. **Heat winners** - Dustin Huehl, Jeff Olson, Jeff Welsh, Loren Dauer.

SUPER STOCK

- A feature** - 1. Adam Schrag; 2. Warren Huffman; 3. Jeff Hilt. **Heat winners** - Troy Davis, Ryan Riarden,

Curtis Barnes.

IMCA HOBBY STOCK

- A feature** - 1. Tony Slothower; 2. Russ Cossell; 3. Jake Hedland. **Heat winners** - Jimmy Silhan, Tony Slothower, John Berry.

360 MODIFIED

- A feature** - 1. Jeff Welsh; 2. John Martin; 3. Craig Colgin. **Heat winners** - John Martin, Ken Berry.

MINI STOCK

- A feature** - 1. Jeff Dame; 2. Jeanie Rodie; 3. Jeremy Hedberg. **Heat winners** - Troy Wente, Jeremy Hedberg.



Star School reunion to be held on Sunday, August 14 in Assaria

A reunion of the Star School will be at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 14, 2005, at the Assaria Lutheran Church, Assaria, Kansas. All former students, teachers and friends are invited to come.

Those attending should bring a covered dish meal and table service. Drinks will be furnished. For information, call (785) 667-3415 or (785) 667-3081.

Three Gypsum students named to Wichita State dean's honor roll

Wichita State University has announced the names of more than 1,800 students who were on the WSU dean's honor roll for spring 2005.

To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Three students from Gypsum, Emily Nicole Eilders, Meladee Lanay Garst and Zini Xu, were included on the list.

WSU enrolls about 14,000 students and offers more than 60 undergraduate degree programs in more than 150 areas of study in six undergraduate colleges.

SHARE to hold regular monthly meeting on August 8 at Salina Health Center

SHARE will hold the next meeting on Monday, August 8, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., in the Braddock Building, Classroom A on the Santa Fe Campus at Salina Regional Health Center. The meeting will be the video "Still

to Be Born" (subsequent pregnancy). SHARE is for anyone dealing with the loss of a pregnancy or death of a baby. For more information, please call Cindy Eller at (785) 452-6839 or e-mail at celler@srhc.com.

Harvest Memories - Part 2 "Extra Help at Harvest"

By Frances Day

Neighbors helped neighbors, but we always had extra help at harvest. There were many drifters traveling the country without work or homes. Some were single, some with wives. I recall that two such couples lived with us. One of the husbands, a good worker, carried a gun, as he was "on the run" from the law. He said if they ever caught up with him, all he'd need was a wagon length of a head start. Most of the single men slept in the hayloft of the barn.

Before coming in for meals, the men would wash up in a basin out in the yard, using a bar of P&G laundry soap, no washcloths, and towels not bought in a store.

Harvest was a busy time at the house also. For the extra big meals, many chickens' necks were wrung, scalded, plucked, cut up and fried. I never got the hang of the wringing, maybe by choice? There were potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, etc. from the garden, plus beet pickles and delicious pickles made from watermelon rinds. Mama fixed a lot of raspberry Jell-O, which was cooled on the cellar floor and served with whipped cream. The pies were often chocolate with egg meringue. Sometimes there was thickened sand-hill plum sauce for dessert, along with chocolate cake.

How pleasant the smell of warm un-iced chocolate (cocoa must have been cheap) cake, when taken to the field at lunchtime in the middle of the afternoon, along with sandwiches and half-gallon jars of coffee, wrapped in newspapers to keep the coffee hot.

It surely took many loaves of bread, so good when fresh from the oven, crusts covered with melting butter. How did our mothers bake so

well, using those old wood-burning stoves, hotter in summer, with no thermometers or heat controls? A straw from the broom to test the cakes, and tapping the tops of the bread loaves to determine when they were ready to be taken out of the oven, without hot pads or potholders yet.

Biscuits and pancakes were a popular item, depending on how you looked at it. No store bought syrup for topping, only syrup made from boiling sugar and water. There always seemed to be plenty of apple butter.

Methinks no one needed anything for help in going to sleep at night. After supper some of the men would take a dip in the tank, creek or pond. Since we had no electricity for lights, radio, etc., there wasn't much reason to stay up. Besides, the roosters crowed early in the mornings, and cows had to be milked, the separating done and calves fed before the day's work began, feeding and harnessing the horses.

I'm so thankful I didn't miss those years.

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Shanda Anderson to compete in the National Junior Olympics - July 27-30

Shanda Anderson ran as a member of the Kansas Flyers Track Club's 4 x 800 relay team in the USA Track and Field Region 9 championship last weekend. The team finished first with a time of 9:42. Shanda also ran the 800 meter and finished second with a

time of 2:22.08. As the top three finishers in the regionals progress to nationals in Indianapolis, Indiana, the last week in July, Shanda will be running at the National Junior Olympics July 27-30.

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FACT:

The push-push race is where one car that runs is pushing another that doesn't run. If the rear car spins the front one out he has to get behind it and get it turned around and going again. There are drivers in both cars but the front car driver being pushed is only steering his car.

IMCA Modified,
IMCA Super Stocks
IMCA Hobby Stocks,
Mini Stocks & 360 Modified

JULY 23rd

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. • Races start at 7:30 p.m.