

Driven To Survive

Donnie Neuenberger is a seasoned NASCAR veteran and fierce competitor, an easy-going Maryland native with charm and charisma that only comes from a life of adversity. More than anything Donnie Neuenberger is a survivor.

Donnie got into racing late in life compared to racing veterans who began their racing career at the early ages of 6 or 7 years old. He started as an avid fan attending races and while attending a race with his race buddies made the declaration that when he returned to the track he would be on the other side of the fence as a competitor. In his twenties Donnie made the decision to sell his successful gas station businesses and begin his racing career.

Neuenberger has competed in Late Model Stock, Goody's Dash Series, Hooters ProCup, ARCA, Busch North Series, Craftsman /Camping World Truck Series, Busch/Nationwide Series and Nextel Cup Series. With a determination to never ever give up Donnie worked hard to finally achieve sponsorship for a full time ride in the NASCAR Busch series in 2004. Having made the personal sacrifices to achieve this, it was devastating and extremely disappointing to have it taken away from him.....to battle cancer.

It was after the 2004 Darlington race that Donnie experienced pain in his side. He thought he might have a kidney stone but what the doctors diagnosed was stage four non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer. He cut a tire and had a hard hit in Darlington. It caused a tumor to pinch a nerve. To have his dream and achievement of a full time ride taken away from him was hard. Donnie stepped out of his car after only 5 races in the season to go through eight months of chemotherapy and experimental treatment. Ever determined to get back to a full time ride Donnie battled every day to return to the Daytona 2005 season opener. Never quitting to get back what he had Donnie has in place this season a ten race deal. The schedule includes Daytona, Las Vegas, Talladega, Dover, Michigan, Daytona, Bristol, Atlanta, Kansas and Homestead. His determination to succeed has been with the help of his sponsors Bay Area Goodyear, EZ-Slider Cylinder Liners, Plan B Technologies, and Eagle Convenience Stores.

Today Donnie's cancer is considered stable. While racing an annual fundraiser was developed by Donnie to provide support to children while they are undergoing treatment. As a survivor himself it enables Donnie to give support to children for a memorable special day. Donnie's visits hospitals to spend time with the children and their family allow him to focus on the positive. Donnie shares his own journey and talks racing. Donnie feels if he can serve as a positive role model for those going through their own treatment it will serve as motivation for others to also return to a healthier life.

The Donnie Neuenberger Foundation is the next step to continue his support of families and children with cancer. His commitment is to aid both the physical and financial for those in need. Donnie understands first-hand how difficult it is to successfully manage cancer and the effects it has on the family. Not only is it hard to deal with the physical and emotional but it is difficult to deal with the financial cost. Donnie feels it is one thing to have a foundation but nothing like having the experience yourself to understand how to help others.

Donnie feels he wants to give back and continues to work hard. His career won't be complete until he gets a chance to run a Daytona 500 and run a full schedule in one of the top three NASCAR series.

Websites: Dgnracing.com, dgnf.org

Call out quote: "I'm living proof that if you're willing to sacrifice everything and never give up...you can get to this level and do it." Donnie Neuenberger