



# DRIVER SPOTLIGHT



# TYLER MAY

**Driver Profile:** Tyler May  
**Hometown:** Union, Michigan  
**Track(s):** Kalamazoo Speedway, M40 Speedway  
**Racing Class:** Outlaw FWD, Street Stock  
**Years Racing:** 1 (Rookie Season)  
**Team:** Leonard Racing

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**Background:**

Tyler May's journey into racing began with inspiration from his grandfather, Bruce Leonard, a local legend at Kalamazoo Speedway. Watching his grandfather race and bring the family together sparked a passion for the sport that never faded. At 30, Tyler finally made the leap, purchasing his first race car and committing to a dream decades in the making.

**Racing Career:**

Starting his rookie season in an outlaw FWD, Tyler focused on building seat time and mastering the fundamentals. As the season progressed, he moved up to the street stock class, eager to take on new challenges. His determination paid off, earning him Rookie of the Year honors at both Kalamazoo Speedway and M40 Speedway—an impressive feat for a first-year racer.

**Favorite Memory:**

Tyler's favorite moments come from seeing his family and friends united in the stands, cheering him on with smiles and excitement. Racing is more than just a sport to Tyler—it's a way to bring people together and create lasting memories.

**Racing Philosophy:**

Tyler's biggest challenge is his own competitiveness. He strives for continuous improvement, knowing that progress takes time and effort. He stays grounded by focusing on enjoying the ride, avoiding racing politics, and embracing the thrill of going fast.

**Pre-Race Ritual:**

Snacking before hitting the track is a must for Tyler. "You can't get hangry out there, or you'll make bad decisions!" he jokes.

**Biggest Influence:**

Bruce Leonard, his grandfather and lifelong idol, remains the driving force behind Tyler's love for the sport. His family's legacy at Kalamazoo Speedway is a source of pride, and Tyler is determined to keep the Leonard name alive in racing.

**Support Team:**

Tyler's racing efforts are backed by a dedicated crew that includes his wife, who serves as his pit chief and keeps him fueled with snacks and drinks. His brother James is his go-to helper, always ready to lend a hand no matter the hour. Cousins Dave Leonard Sr. and Jr. provide invaluable support with setups and driving tips, while his friend Chris Treacher is another key member of the team.

**Community Spirit:**

For Tyler, the racing community is like a second family. The mutual support between drivers and teams—whether sharing tools or offering advice—makes the sport even more rewarding.

**Achievements:**

- **Rookie of the Year:** Kalamazoo Speedway
- **Rookie of the Year:** M40 Speedway

**Ultimate Goal:**

Tyler dreams of racing at the highest level—NASCAR. He's committed to becoming a well-rounded driver who inspires others to pursue their passions, proving that with dedication and hard work, anything is possible.

**Sponsors:**

Tyler is grateful for the support of his sponsors, including:

- Kelly Bronkema, Coldwell Banker Realty
- The Rusted Wrench Mechanics Shop
- Jeff and Jill Balcom, Repicci's Italian Ice and Gelato

**Off the Track:**

When he's not racing, Tyler spends time in his shop or with his wife, ensuring a balance between his passion for racing and quality time with family.

**Dream Track:**

Bristol Motor Speedway tops Tyler's bucket list as his dream track to race at, combining the history and thrill of short-track racing on a grand stage.

Tyler May is a rising star in the local racing scene, fueled by family legacy, competitive drive, and an unwavering commitment to the sport. With his eyes set on the future, his journey is only beginning.