



KYLE MEYER

STREET STOCK CHAMPION²¹

AGE: 31 (Feb. 11, 1988)

LIVES IN: Highland

FAMILY: Single

OCCUPATION: Student

OTHER INTERESTS: Cycling, snowboarding

YEARS IN RACING: 7

SPONSORS: S.J. Meyer Properties, StickShift Transmissions, E.J. Meyer

CHAMPIONSHIPS AND HONORS: Street Stock champion, Orange Show Speedway, 2008; New Horizons karting champion, 2004; W.K.A. champion, 2004; Tri-C Karters champion, 2002

Street Stock Champion Meyer Chasing Father's Record

KYLE MEYER SAID being the Orange Show Speedway's Street Stock champion "feels really good," but that's just a start. His goal is to catch up with his father, Mike, who has four titles at the historic quarter-mile oval.

That's one goal. The other is to finish college and perhaps become a forensic psychologist.

Meyer, of Highland, is a junior at California Baptist University in Riverside. He's majoring in psychology, and after obtaining his Bachelor's degree he's considering enrolling in the school's new Master's program in forensic psychology with an eye toward possibly becoming a profiler.

Reading a criminal's mind should be easier than learning how to read a race track.

"Initially it was really hard getting used to something that you're sitting on the side of that weighs 3000 pounds compared to a 150-pound go-kart that you're in the middle of, and then there's power steering and stuff," said Meyer, who moved into the Street Stock class after five years and several championships in karting.

"Initially I was real intimidated running with the same guys that my dad raced with, like Johnny Russo and the others. But it was fun to go out there and mix it up with them and I learned a lot from them, just following them on the track and stuff.

"It's been fun racing with them over the last three years, getting to know them and having a better relationship with them to where we do trust each other more on the track and we can race each other better. We know how they're going to react and stuff. I enjoy racing those guys, especially in our division because we're not worried about messing up our

\$50,000 or \$70,000 race cars. We can get into each other and just take a hammer to it, so it's still fun."

Meyer, a 21-year-old bachelor, said he can look back over the three seasons in Street Stock and "see a difference (in his driving). I think I've definitely grown in my decision-making on track and how I drive in general. I'm used to the car and more comfortable. But it's hard to say I've changed a whole lot.

"It's always been a growing process. The more I'm in the car, the more I learn."

The question is how much Meyer might have changed and how much better he might have done if school hadn't gotten in the way.

"My first season I missed a race because I went to the (high school) prom and then I blew the engine two races later," said Meyer, whose crew chief is Figure 8 driver Jay Henson. "My second year (2007), they disqualified the top four in the first race, then I went to Germany during the summer and missed two races. Last year, we had a race and two days later I left on a trip to Germany and the Middle East. Fortunately, the trip fell during our six-week break in the schedule.

"The day after I got back we had a race and I think after about 15 or 20 laps I started losing it (mentally, due to jet lag). I was like 'what in the world is going on?' I ended up winning the race, though."

Meyer plans numerous trips in the future, to the Orange Show Speedway winner's circle after a Street Stock main event.

"It's not in the immediate future," he said about possibly moving up in class. "If it comes around, I would love to move up. It would be a new challenge. But right now I'm perfectly content where I'm at. I'm having a lot of fun at it and it's not breaking us at the bank."