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### **Q&A with Kendall Bell and David Zeszutek**

**David, why did you want to write this book?**

*I wrote the book to preserve the impact that Larry had on the sport of racing. My strongest reason for writing the book was not just because I was a fan. It was because my dad, Ted, was his biggest fan. He suffered a stroke in 1993, a year after my mother died and I began selling racing collectible at the tracks and my dad would go along. He enjoyed speaking with all the race fans. But most of all he was there to watch Larry Phillips win. My dad had a special relationship with Larry. He could talk and joke with him like no one ever could. Larry was always kind and respectful to my father. I really appreciated this time that Larry gave my dad. This relationship kept him active for many years after his stroke up until his death in December 2002. Nothing has ever compared to watching and working with Larry Phillips at the race tracks.*

**So you knew Larry personally?**

*I was first introduced to Larry Phillips in the sixties while attending the races at the Fairground Speedway in Springfield, Missouri, with my mom and dad. Ever since I had been a fan of Larry Phillips and was intrigued by the No. 75 Car winning much of the time. Later in my teenage years I got to know Larry by going to his shop on Commercial Street. Later when I sold racing collectibles I designed and sold his T-Shirts at the track.*

**Talk about the Larry Phillips Foundation. How did that get started and why?**

*I started the LP Foundation to keep his name alive and at the same time use his notoriety to help people with catastrophic illnesses and to award scholarships to students.*

**If I wanted to donate to the Larry Phillips Foundation how do I do that? Are donations tax-deductible?**

*To make a tax-deductible contribution to the foundation, go to [www.larryphillipsfoundation.org](http://www.larryphillipsfoundation.org) and click on “Donate” or you can mail a check in c/o the Larry Phillips Foundation, PO Box 5063, Springfield, MO 65801*

**Kendall, why should fans of Larry Phillips want this book?**

*Larry Phillips’ fans knew him as a race car driver. But not many ever got close enough to learn much else about him. In the book, we introduce them to the Larry Phillips they never knew. They will be surprised by several things in the book.*

**Help us out here. What kind of things will we learn that we didn’t know? After all, Larry was in the public eye for a long time. He was a local around Springfield. A lot of people think they knew him pretty well.**

*Did you know he played the violin? And that’s just the beginning. Larry was an extremely complex person. And I mean that in a good way. Racing fans knew him as an excellent driver. To anyone who visited his shop, Larry was all business. To children he was kind. Friends in aviation knew him as a man who built and flew his own helicopter and to close friends he was bits and pieces from everything I’ve mentioned as well as a motorcycle enthusiast. It’s hard to categorize Larry as just one thing. And that’s one thing I enjoyed about putting this book together. David and I learned Larry from his family, friends, former competitors and fans. And each one told us about the Larry who they knew. That’s what we bring out in the book.*

**Kendall, what about in other parts of the country? Why should people who might not be familiar with Larry Phillips buy this book?**

*Larry Phillips was one of the people who helped shape NASCAR into what it is today. Several drivers: Mark Martin, Rusty and Kenny Wallace, Ken Schrader -- and others learned a lot about racing from Larry. All of those drivers I mentioned tell in the book how much Larry helped them. One other thing that struck me was how eager all of them were to talk about Larry. Even though he was tough on them at times, they all grew to respect him. And*



*I think that respect grew as each of them matured.*

**So Larry was a friendly guy who helped younger drivers?**

*I would say Larry was a racing professional who stayed extremely focused. Not only was he a winner on the track, but he built cars for others, too. There's no doubt that he was very intelligent. As far as being friendly, if Larry thought you were wasting his time, he didn't mince words when he told you to leave. But if you were there to talk racing, he would make time for you.*

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To learn more about the Larry Phillips Foundation go to [www.larryphillipsfoundation.org](http://www.larryphillipsfoundation.org). To read more about Larry Phillips, the authors, or to order a book, go to [www.kendallbell.com](http://www.kendallbell.com) or [bellarosabooks.com](http://bellarosabooks.com).

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