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LARRY PHILLIPS
NASCAR'S Only Winston Racing Series Champion;
Master of the Short Track
by Kendall Bell and David Zeszutek
Bella Rosa Books; On Sale January 22, 2011
Trade paperback; 8x10, 183 pages
ISBN: 978-1-933523-95-8; \$18.95
LCCN: 2010935827

NASCAR fans have always had their heroes. **DALE EARNHARDT, RICHARD PETTY, CALE YARBOROUGH, RUSTY WALLACE, JIMMIE JOHNSON, TONY STEWART**—and the list goes on and on. Drivers in NASCAR's Sprint Series, known for many years as the Winston Cup Series, have become household names in many cases.

In NASCAR's Winston Racing Series, one man stood head and shoulders above the rest. **LARRY PHILLIPS** won an unprecedented five Winston Racing Series championships. No one else has come close to matching that feat.

Phillips, who died in 2004, was known throughout the Midwest as a force to be reckoned with. Many track promoters put a bounty on him, paying extra money to anyone who could bet him. Why? Because they rarely had to pay out! Phillips was just that good.

Phillips was not only a driver, but he also built race cars. Other drivers bought cars from him because they knew the quality of the product that Phillips produced. Many of today's drivers learned to love racing by spending time in Phillips' shop. Mark Martin, Rusty Wallace, Kenny Wallace and Ken Schrader are only a few of the drivers who went on to a successful racing career after learning from Phillips.

Phillips polarized fans wherever he went. Fans either cheered wildly for him, or they cheered equally hard against him. There was no middle ground.

However, racing wasn't Phillips' only interest. He also learned to fly and later built and flew a helicopter.

When he wasn't flying or racing, Phillips could be found on his motorcycle, riding with close friends and family. His fans, no doubt, thought they knew all there was to know about Larry Phillips. But they are wrong. Phillips had another side that he never showed at the track. Many will be surprised to learn that he also played the violin and could be gruff as a polar bear one minute only to bend down to playfully tease a child a moment later

In **LARRY PHILLIPS: NASCAR'S Only Five-Time Winston Racing Series Champion, Master of the Short Track**, Kendall Bell and David Zeszutek give fans a look at the Larry Phillips they never knew from just seeing him at the tracks. And for fans who thought they knew everything about their favorite driver, they might be surprised to learn Phillips planted that the seed for the love of racing in them. He might be gone, but his influence on the dynasty we know as NASCAR will continue to be felt for years to come.

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