

### **2014 Huset's Speedway Hall of Fame Inductees:**

- *Howard Baartman*
  - *Robin Dump*
  - *Kevin Kjergaard*
  - *Ben Nothdurft*
  - *Gary Zitterich*
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### **2014 HUSET'S SPEEDWAY HALL OF FAME**

*Bios written by Rob Ristesund*

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#### **HOWARD BAARTMAN**

Howard Baartman didn't start racing until he was 39 years old, but he's been a constant at Huset's ever since. Baartman began racing in the popular street stock class in 1982, and he's notched 25 career victories during that time span, ranking him fourth all-time in that division.

The familiar blue No. 82, used by Baartman because that's the year he began racing, has seen its share of time out front over many years. At age 71, Baartman still consistently runs up front in the competitive street stock class. But after a long, prosperous career, his 32nd season will be his last.

"I really didn't think I was good enough to be in there," he said of being notified that he'd be in the Hall of Fame. "I'm just a normal weekend racer. I'm no Terry McCarl or Doug Wolfgang. I was surprised. I'm just a guy who likes to go out and play on the weekend."

Baartman grew up in Leota, Minn., before his family moved to Franklin as a teenager. He moved to Sioux Falls in 1960 and has called it home ever since. The racing bug finally hit Baartman when his brother, Vernon, and brother-in-law, Jim Fods, helped build Lake County Speedway in Madison. After the track was built, Baartman watched his brother and brother-in-law race, and he was hooked.

But it would be awhile until he could actually get in a racecar. Baartman took the high road and raised his five children before finally taking the racing plunge when his children were grown.

"When you have a wife and five kids, it's a little tough to support them all and go racing," he said. "But I knew eventually my time would come."

Baartman watched the racing from afar as a truck driver for Sather Candies in Round Lake, Minn., before making his Huset's debut.

"It's an honor for sure," he said. "I need to thank everyone possible. I got a heck of a lot of help getting here."

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## **ROBIN DUMP**

One of the early pioneers of racing at Huset's Speedway could have possibly done so much more. Huset's Speedway opened in 1958 and Robin Dump was there to help churn up the Brandon mud from the start.

Still in his prime, Dump was killed in an airplane crash en route to the 1963 Daytona 500. More than 50 years since his passing, Dump's heritage lives on as his family is in its third generation of competing at Huset's.

"I always wanted to be just like my dad," said Robin's son, Rick Dump, who was 6 years old when his father died.

Robin Dump was a "hot-rod" in his early days driving around Sioux Falls, according to Rick, who went on to race his father's No. 12 to eight feature wins. Rick's nephew, Brock, now bares the responsibility for representing No. 12 at Huset's.

"It means the world to me that he got in," Rick Dump said of his father, who died at the age of 24. "He's always been my idol. I grew up with no dad. I wanted to follow in his footsteps and be just like he was."

Robin Dump was born in 1938 in Sioux Falls and became a lead foreman at Egger Steel at a young age. He would often take his young son to different race shops around Sioux Falls before his tragic death.

Rick Dump is now the sprint car tech at Huset's, a position he's held for 15 years.

"If it weren't for my dad, I would have never raced," Rick Dump said. "My dad started three generations of racing. Racing has turned into my second life, thanks to my dad."

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## **KEVIN KJERGAARD**

Kevin Kjergaard grew up in the shadows of Huset's Speedway in Rowena. He's never left.

As a high school student in Sioux Falls, Kjergaard got his first job at KSFY Television at the age of 16. It wasn't long after that when Kjergaard started showing up at Huset's with a camera on his shoulder.

His first job at KSFY was running a camera in the studio. Sports director Mark Ovenden needed help on the weekends, and Kjergaard took full advantage by frequenting Huset's. By the time he was 16, he'd become a familiar fixture at the local track. Promoter Fred Buckmiller paid Kjergaard to come to the Speedway every Monday to help clean the grandstands.

"I had the run of the place on Sundays when I showed up with my camera," Kjergaard said. "I could go wherever I wanted. I'm kind of like furniture at that place. I'm just always there."

Kjergaard went from a weekly photographer to a national racing videographer on demand in 1982, when he captured a vicious sprint car crash at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds. Kjergaard's video of Billy Keester violently flipping out of Turn No. 1 at the Fairgrounds got the attention of many around the country.

The video of Keester's crash appeared on ABC's Wide World of Sports, and doors began to open for the Huset's regular.

"That was the [video] that everybody assumed I knew everything about sprint car racing," Kjergaard said. "Everyone called me after that."

He began supplying video for Motor Week Illustrated on WTBS, hosted by Dave Despain, Lyn St. James and Bob Varsha. He later went on to supply video for ESPN Speedweek with Larry Nuberg and Bob Jenkins.

The 52-year old Kjergaard moved to KELO Television at the age of 28 and is now the chief photographer in the news department.

During his career, he produced four retail videos called "Up and Over."

"Sports was always just a hobby, and I've been lucky that they've let me do it on the weekends," he said. "I'd like to hope that I've helped sprint car racing. I wanted to share the stories the way Tom Savage (local racing historian and Huset's Hall of Fame inductee) did."

"He kept it alive. He taught everyone that there was a story to tell. We were lucky to have guys like Tom and Doug Wolfgang in this area."

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## **BEN NOTHDURFT**

As a car owner, Ben Nothdurft saw his share of victories at Huset's Speedway. Nothdurft opened Ben's Auto Repair on the north side of Sioux Falls in 1960, and although he was dealing in cars on a daily basis, his interest in racing didn't come until 1988 when Bud Barber asked him to sponsor his son, Marty.

The decision to help turned out to be an incredible one as the famous No. 75 of Barber went on to win multiple championships in the area, including seven titles at Huset's in the street stock division.

After owning his repair shop for several years, Nothdurft opened Ben's Bargain Barn on North Cliff Avenue in Sioux Falls. The shop remains there after 54 years of business.

"Those were fun days," Nothdurft said. "We went out there to win, and we did."

Barber wasn't the only one winning races for Nothdurft during that time. Leland Goehring, Dana Gulbranson and Nothdurft's son, Troy, also had success piloting cars owned by the Larchwood, Iowa, native.

Although the years with Barber, Goehring, Gulbranson and Troy Nothdurft were great, Nothdurft hasn't slowed when it comes to being involved in the local racing scene.

Ben's Bargain Barn cars have frequented Huset's over the years and the familiar sponsor still can be seen on the side of cars each Sunday. Dusty Zomer, Derrik Lusk, Dylan Peterson, Logan Fitzpatrick, Austin McCarl, Gary Brown Jr., Todd Huisman, Jimmy Krueger, Tommy Barber, Dylan Fitzpatrick, Jason Krohn, Kaleb Johnson and Jake Peters all have benefited from Nothdurft's sponsorship in motorsports.

"He's very excited about his," said Nothdurft's daughter-in-law, Sara. "We never thought he'd get inducted. So we're excited."

He spent a great deal of time in the pits while his son was racing in the 1980s and '90s, but now the 80-year old Nothdurft enjoys the scenery at Huset's from a different spot. Turn 4 is his spot now, every Sunday night.

"I was surprised when I got in there because I'm an ornery devil," Nothdurft said.

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## **GARY ZITTERICH**

Gary Zitterich first climbed in a sprint car at the age of 29 in 1981, and he tore up area tracks

for the next 30 years. Although he hasn't raced in three years, he's got three sprint cars ready to go in his Sioux Falls garage and he's never officially retired.

He's a two-time 360 sprint car champion at Huset's Speedway, winning in 1991 and '92. In '91, he was the first driver at Huset's to win both heat races and both features in the same night in two different sprint car classes.

He also won a 410 sprint car feature that year with a 360 motor – the first to do so at Huset's.

"A lot of people don't realize all you give up to go racing," he said. "You give up time with the family. You give up time with the kids. There's never a family vacation. The kids grow up in the garage and the racetrack."

In 1984, Zitterich started to make a mark in sprint cars when he partnered with Larry Apland and Taner Ross. He got his first sprint car win that season, a trophy dash when the World of Outlaws visited Knoxville Raceway in Iowa. In his first career win, Zitterich shared the podium with legends Sammy Swindell and Steve Kinser.

Zitterich got his first feature victory the following year at the W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls.

"We had a lot of pride in our cars and every penny we had went into those racecars," he said. "When someone thinks enough of you to put you on this pedestal and put you in the Hall of Fame, it's pretty cool."

The Estherville, Iowa, native began his love of sprint racing as a youngster when he and his brothers would stand on their father's car and peak over the fence to catch the races.

"We grew up on the tough end of town and didn't have a lot of money," he said. "We'd only see the roofs of the cars and a bunch of flying dirt, but at least we were at the races."

Throughout his career, Zitterich has been visible in the community. He's taken his car to school and hospitals, and always had a bag of candy to give the young fans after the races at Huset's.

He would later invite other drivers to go into the stands during intermission to pass out candy. Zitterich was twice named the Huset's Speedway Most Popular Driver.

"I was 100 percent surprised when I got in," he said. "I'll admit I had tears in my eyes. I never thought I'd see it happen."