



MATT KENSETH

17



MATT KENSETH

IN THE FAST LANE

David and Patricia Armentrout



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MATT KENSETH

Stock car racing's greatest prize is the **NASCAR** Nextel Cup (formerly Winston Cup). Many talented drivers spend their careers chasing the **championship**, only to fall short of the sports ultimate goal.

Matt Kenseth is not just a talented driver. He is one of NASCAR's elite competitors. He won the Winston Cup championship in just his fourth season as a full-time Cup driver.

Born: March 10, 1972

Organization: NASCAR

Car: Ford #17

Car owner: Mark Martin

Team: Roush Racing

Sponsor: Dewalt



Matt's team goes to work on the #17 Dewalt Ford.

A GREAT START

Racing is not an easy sport to get into. It is very expensive and takes a lot of time and effort. Not everyone understands the sacrifices that must be made to race cars for a living, so it helps to grow up in a family that knows the sport.

Matt definitely had the support of his family. His father introduced him to racing. His father even bought Matt his first racecar. Matt didn't waste the opportunity. He scored his first victory at age 16, his first year racing.

FAST FACTS

Matt's first racecar was a 1981 Chevy Camaro.

Strapped in and ready for a practice run.





Matt drives the #17 Visine car in a Busch series race.

Matt paid his dues racing in local, state, and regional events near his family's home in Wisconsin. But Matt never lingered too long on his way to NASCAR. He learned what he could at each level and then moved on to the next.

Matt raced against many great competitors early in his career. A rival, Robbie Reiser, was so impressed with Matt that he would later give him his first chance to drive in NASCAR's Busch series.

NASCAR'S BUSCH SERIES

Robbie Reiser and Matt teamed up in 1997 to make their mark in NASCAR's Busch series. Robbie provided the team and Matt drove the car. In just 21 starts, Matt finished in the top-ten seven times.

The year 1998 would prove to be even better. In the team's first full Busch season, they finished in the top-five 17 times—good enough for second place in the final point standings. The championship was won by another young competitor named Dale Earnhardt Jr.



Matt trails rival Dale Earnhardt Jr. at Lowe's Motor Speedway.