



FROM KARTING TO ARCA

Photos and story by Earl Clement

GABI DICARLO

Iowa Speedway, Newton, IA – April, 2008

Gabi Dicarlo was born in Vail Colorado on July 10, 1985, and started her karting career in 1997 at the age of eleven.

She raced with the Phoenix Kart Racing Association in the 80 Jr. class and moved up to the 80 Sr. and then on to the 125cc shifter class.

While in karting, Gabi was an 80 Jr. Season champion, the only female ever to win the 125cc Season Championship and was sponsored by KGB North America. She also ran the SKUSA Pro Moto Tour and finished in eleventh place overall in the nation. With a great start in karting, it was time to make the move up to the Star Mazda West Coast Series, where Gabi was rookie of the year and finished fifth in the points championship.

In 2003 and 2004 Gabi was invited to participate in the “Women in the Winners Circle” in Indianapolis Indiana, sponsored by the Lyn St. James Foundation. By 2006, it was time for the Hooters Pro Cup series, where she became the first woman in the history of the series to be named the Miller Lite Rookie of the Race on two occasions.

On the starting grid for the SKUSA World Finals in Norman, Oklahoma. Courtesy of Gabi Dicarlo



In 2007, Doug Stringer of Stringer Motorsports gave Gabi her first start in his ARCA driver development team. With sponsorship by Great Clips®, Gabi would finish eleventh in the season points in her rookie year in the ARCA series. With the rookie stripes off in 2008, it was February ninth and time for Daytona, where Gabi would finish 20th in her first race at the famed superspeedway, even though she had brake problems and had to make a pit stop for repairs, that put her seven laps down to the leader as the checker flag flew. Then it was on to Salem Speedway in Indiana April 13, for the 2nd race of the season. This time, Gabi was caught up in a crash and ended up finishing up in the 25th position. This was not enough to get the young and ambitious team led by a well known crew chief Barry Dodson to give up, in fact they went out and purchased two Toyota Camry's® from Bill Davis Racing. These had been driven by Dave Blaney last year in the “Nascar Sprint Cup Series.”



Shaking down the new car in practice at Iowa Speedway.

So with the new cars in the transporter, they were on to Newton Iowa for the Prairie Meadows 250 at the Iowa Speedway. With hopes of getting a solid finish at this Rusty Wallace signature track, the weather would not cooperate and allow the teams much track time. So with only a few minutes of practice, Gabi would start the race in her #90 Great Clips® Toyota in the 15th position, according to owner points, since qualifying was rained out. At the beginning of the race, she was doing a good job of holding her own, and on lap 81 of the race, Gabi was hit from behind and forced to pit for repairs. This was not what the team had in mind for the debut of their new car, but Gabi would go back out to finish the race in 26th out of the 41 cars that started the event. And

80cc Junior Class during race at Acres Racing Complex in Canby, Oregon. Courtesy of Gabi Dicarlo.



that finish, was despite losing 1st and 2nd gear in her transmission, then later in the race, losing 3rd gear and with a few laps remaining, 4th gear was gone and the car coasted past the finish line. This was just one spot ahead of the only other

female entered in the race, driven by Alli Owens of Daytona Beach Florida.

After a rough start to the 2008 season, the team went on to the Kansas Speedway for their next race, where Gabi would qualify in the 23rd position and would get a great top 10 finish by ending up 9th on the lead lap. This should give the team plenty of momentum as they head to Rockingham, NC for the next race on the ARCA schedule. You can keep up with her latest results and stats on www.arcaracing.com or www.gabidicarlo.com As for Gabi's future in racing, she is currently working as a development driver for the Great Clips® "Nascar Nationwide Series" team and will be in a "Nascar Craftsman Truck Series" ride for the 2009 season, with hopes of a full time ride in Nascar's most elite series, the "Nascar Sprint Cup Series" sometime in the future.

Some things to know about her are, Gabi is short for Gabriele, she would describe herself as strong, friendly and composed, which I could tell by listening in on her 2 way radio communications with the spotter and crew chief during the race. Her favorite motto is, "have fun, face your fears and live your dreams." Gabi's advice for young karters, "Don't give up, and keep working hard, since hard work pays off!"

As with other drivers in NASCAR, IRL, ARCA and ASA, many of them got their start in karting, which provided a solid foundation for the skills and knowledge necessary to make the move up to professional racing and live out their dream of being a racecar driver full time. **NKN**

18,000 RPM... Broken engine?

Forget about it!



For the ultimate in synthetic pro racing lubricants for karting!

2-STROKE (USING GAS)

- HTX 909 SAE 50 to 25,000rpm
- Sport 2 Competition SAE 40 to 18,000rpm

2 & 4-STROKE (USING METHANOL)

- HTX 098 neat or premix

4-STROKE

- HTX 3818 5W-30

GEARING

- HTX 740 Clutch Oil 75W
- HTX 732 Gear & Axle Oil 75W-80

SPECIALTIES

- ELF Chain Paste
- HTX 115 Brake Fluid – Low Viscosity/High Temp



Ask your dealer or visit: ElfMoto.us or email to: elf.info@total-us.com