

# Gosselin, Lindley making NASCAR marks

Ten years ago this week, Mario Gosselin returned to the driver's seat and won a pair of specials in one weekend in what was then called Serie ACT Castrol. The Aug. 23-24 triumphs, in Late Model races of 100 and 250 laps, came at Autodrome Montmagny, the bullring near his original home in Ste-Marie, Quebec.

Gosselin, who lived and raced Late Models out of Lake Wales, Fla., was the first big star when the USAR Pro Cup Series held its first full season in 1997. He won 19 races in Pro Cup, with the last triumph coming in 2003.

On several occasions in those heavy cars, he crossed paths with Mardy Lindley. Lindley won 11 times in Pro Cup action and earned the North division championship in 2001. One of his wins came Aug. 24, 2002, at Cayuga Motor Speedway in Hagersville, Ontario. That's the track which reopened last year as Jukasa Motor Speedway, which will hold the Canadian Short Track Nationals Sept. 1-2 with a \$50,000-to-win Pro Late Model feature as the Sunday headliner.

The son of 1976 Oxford 250 winner and 1984 Snowball Derby winner Butch Lindley, Mardy's last taste of regular driving came in 2006. Since then the native of Greenville, S.C., has been found at numerous racetracks in a crew shirt instead of a firesuit. Lindley was the crew chief for Ricky Stenhouse Jr. in a Roush-Fenway Racing-supported ARCA effort in 2008, then he assumed other Roush roles for a few years.

His big break as a crew chief came in 2013, when the newly-formed Turner-Scott Motorsports formed its NASCAR K&N Pro East Series powerhouse. Lindley guided Dylan Kwasniewski to the East championship, in a year when the Las Vegas native driver was also finishing high school.

The team underwent some changes over the next three years before HScott Motorsports closed after 2016. Harrison Burton moved from HScott to the team once known as Ranier Racing with MDM, and he took his car number #12 and his crew chief Lindley with him. Burton and Lindley brought the 2017 East champi-



Stephane Lazare

**Florida and Quebec short-track legend Mario Gosselin topped Stephane Descoste (right), Claude Leclerc (left) and the rest of the field in a 250-lap Serie ACT feature Aug. 24, 2008, at Autodrome Montmagny.**

onship to MDM Motorsports. MDM also fields cars in the ARCA Racing Series, and Lindley is now calling the shots for four-time 2018 race winner Zane Smith.

Gosselin also has two NASCAR-sanctioned championships as a crew chief: with Louis-Philippe Dumoulin in 2014 and Alex Labbe last year in the NASCAR Pinty's (formerly Canadian Tire) Series. Labbe moved into a NASCAR Xfinity Series seat this season with Go Fas Racing Canada, and he brought the 46-year-old Gosselin along with him to lead his rookie campaign. Through 22 races Labbe's best finish in Xfinity has been ninth at Mid-Ohio in August, and the best result on an oval was 11th at Bristol Motor Speedway in the spring.

"Super Mario" kept

his firesuit clean through last year. From 2015-17 he made 40 starts in the DGM Racing Xfinity team in which he was a co-owner, peaking with a 17th-place finish last February at Daytona International Speedway. At this year's Xfinity opener Labbe was running in the top 10 before running out of fuel just prior to the fifth and final green-white-checked finish attempt.

"I really wasn't surprised by his performance at Daytona," Gosselin said. "We brought him down for the ARCA test in the off-season and he was comfortable in the car right away, so we felt he would have a chance for a good day, and he did."



Mike Horne

**Mardy Lindley (01) battles Jeff Agnew in an Aug. 24, 2002, USAR Pro Cup race at what is now Jukasa Motor Speedway. The win was one of three for Lindley that season; Agnew won at the track the previous year.**



Jim Carson

**Mardy Lindley (right) chats with Kyle Shoemaker before a Pro Cup race. Lindley is now a crew chief at MDM Motorsports, a powerhouse team in the ARCA Racing Series and NASCAR K&N Pro East Series.**