



NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL OF FAME

CHARLES "DUTCH" BAUMANN

BY TOM WILLIAMS

Charles Albin "Dutch" Baumann was born October 18, 1897. His parents, German-born Albin and Dayton, Ohio-born Caroline Schulz, lived in Indianapolis, Indiana, where they ran a dairy business. His siblings included Adolph (Otto), Emma, Henry, Amelia, John and Rosa.

Dutch worked in the family dairy for a short period, as did hired hand William Koonse, before starting his own machine shop. Dutch began his racing career in 1922, a few years before he married.

Dutch and his wife, the former Beulah Frances Utley, had two sons. Charles, Jr., born in 1926, became a decorated Marine in WWII and still lives in Fishers, Indiana. Richard, born in 1928, tragically died in '29.

During the late '20s, Dutch ran up front against all of the best of the time - Louis Schneider, William "Shorty" Canton, Billy Arnold, Wilbur Shaw, Bill Cummings, Ira Hall, Howdy Wilcox, Bob Carey, Sherman "Red" Campbell, Frank Sweigert, Harry McQuinn and Mauri Rose.

Long time racing writer Larry Sullivan noted that Dutch won 43 of 52 races, including heats and dashes, that he entered in 1928, driving the red number 2 D.O. Fronty built and owned by Arthur Chevrolet.

In addition to his feature wins at Roby Speedway in Hammond, Indiana (05/02/26, 06/13/26, 08/22/26, 06/12/27, 07/04/27, 10/09/27), and at Jungle Park in Rockville, Indiana (07/08/28, 08/05/28, 06/09/29, 08/09/29), Baumann won at tracks like Akron-Cleveland Speedway in Akron (05/05/27, 05/05/29, 06/23/29, 10/06/29); South Milwaukee Motor Speedway in Wisconsin (06/03/28, 10/27/29); Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point, Indiana (05/16/26, 05/15/27, 07/17/27, 06/10/28, 07/15/28); Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield (08/24/29); Sunflower Park in Brazil, Indiana (08/19/28, 04/13/30); Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit (07/31/27); Raceland in Ashland, Kentucky (09/30/28); Winchester Speedway in Indiana (09/07/25, 06/04/27, 06/24/28, 05/30/29); Black Demon Speedway in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana (06/30/28); George Rogers Clark Speedway in Vincennes, Indiana (07/01/28, 10/13/29, 05/11/30); Thornton Speedway in Chicago, Illinois (06/27/26); Paris Speedway in Illinois (07/01/26); the original Kokomo Speedway in Indiana (07/04/25); Bedford Speedway in Indiana (06/17/28);

Sullivan Speedway in Indiana (07/04/28); Riverside Speedway in Rushville, Indiana (07/29/28); Macon County Fairgrounds in Decatur, Illinois (08/17/28); Kentucky State Fairgrounds in Louisville (07/04/26); Speedbowl Park in Sterling, Illinois (07/07/29, 09/15/29); Logansport Fairgrounds in Indiana (08/10/24); Louisville Motor Speedway in Kentucky (07/05/26); Huntington Motor Speedway in Indiana (08/26/28, 05/19/29, 06/15/30); Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul (07/04/29); and Frontier Park/Hawkeye Downs in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (09/06/26, 09/03/28, 09/02/29).

His wins at St. Paul and Cedar Rapids in 1929 were sanctioned by the International Motor Contest Association (IMCA). He may also have garnered feature wins at the Aurora Downs in Chicago, Illinois; and the Greenville Speedway in Ohio (07/05/26).

Dutch served as a pit crewman for Jack McCarver in the 1926 Indianapolis 500. The following year, as a rookie driver, Baumann qualified seventeenth for the '500.' He led the Memorial Day classic for nine laps before a broken pinion shaft sidelined his Harry A. Miller-owned mount.

In 1928, he qualified his number 9 Duesenberg, but wrecked the car in the morning practice session on race day. His wife noted in their scrap book, "Hit the wall at 5:30 on the morning of the race in the #9 Dusie, but not injured, thank God."

Unable to repair his mount in time for the start, he drove relief for Tony Gulotta in car number 8. The car led at the end of lap 180, but a fuel problem forced them to pit and yield the lead to eventual winner Louis Meyer.

Just a week after the 1928 '500,' the American Automobile Association (AAA) suspended Dutch for running a June 3 outlaw race in Milwaukee. Dutch, in his obvious disgust for the heavy-handedness the AAA wielded with race drivers concerning their beloved Brickyard, made the following note in his scrap book, "Yes, sir, and what are you going to do, keep me out of the AAA races? Well OK, I can't eat bricks; they are too hard to digest."

A second telegram on July 31 indicated that Dutch could not run at the August 5 Jungle Park race. Again, Dutch made a note in his scrapbook, "Must be hot stuff to get barred."

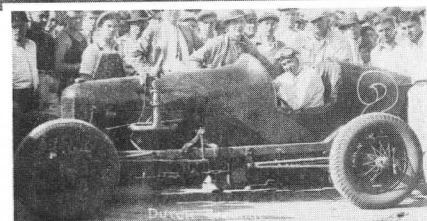


PHOTO CREDIT: FRANK SMITH PHOTO

Things somehow got worked out just in time for Dutch to enter at Jungle Park. And to cap off his 'comeback' he won the feature, outrunning Ira Hall, Louis Schneider and Howdy Wilcox.

August 9, 1929, was another big day for Dutch at Jungle Park. He set a new track record and then won the feature, beating George "Cowboy" Hardy, Ira Hall and Mark Billman.

On Saturday, August 16, 1930, his plan was to race in the afternoon at Kankakee, Illinois, on the Interstate Fairgrounds and then at Jungle Park, 122 miles to the south, for that track's first night race. It wasn't to be. His car went through the fence and Dutch was gravely injured at the Kankakee fairgrounds event. A shattered board delivered injuries that would prove fatal to the 33-year-old driver. He lingered unconscious for two days in the Kankakee hospital before succumbing to the injuries.

Interestingly, Bryan Saulpaugh suffered a broken arm and broken shoulder in the same race at Kankakee.

Charles "Dutch" Baumann was buried at Holy Cross and Saint Joseph Cemetery in Indianapolis. He shares the cemetery grounds with his car owner, Arthur Chevrolet, and the other two Chevrolet brothers, Louis and Gaston.

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