

NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL of FAME & MUSEUM

DUANE "PANCHE" CARTER, JR.

Duane "Pancho" Carter, Jr. was born on June 11, 1950. He is the son of 1950 AAA Midwestern sprint car champion Duane Carter (Sr.). Pancho, then living in Huntington Beach (Calif.), began racing with the United States Auto Club (USAC) sprint car division in 1971, starting in nine feature races. The following year, while still in college, he started just ten sprint car races, yet he captured the 1972 USAC Midget division championship. In 1973, Carter ran the full USAC sprint car schedule, claiming five wins and a sixth place ranking in points aboard the Steve Stapp-owned Dobbins Chevrolet #77.

Pancho was the 1974 USAC Sprint Car Division champion, earning seven wins including the prestigious "Joe James-Pat O'Connor" trophy with Stapp wrenching. The championship marked the first time in USAC history that one driver had won both the sprint and midget titles

(although Rich Vogler would later do it in the same year - 1980). In 1975, Pancho garnered just two wins, but they were the "Tony Hulman Classic" at Terre Haute and the "Joe James-Pat O'Connor Memorial" at Salem. He ranked fourth in points.



Duane "Pancho" Carter, Jr.
Bruce Craig Collection

In 1976, Pancho was back on top of the USAC standings at the end of the year, as a result of his efforts in the Steve Stapp-owned Dobbins Chevrolet sprinter. He captured a record-tying twelve wins enroute to the championship. In 1977, Pancho

scored ten wins, including his fourth straight "Joe James-Pat O'Connor" title and was ranked third. In December of 1977, Carter suffered two broken arms, breaks on either side of his pelvis, a cracked hip, a damaged elbow and a damaged bladder in an Indy car practice crash at Phoenix.

In 1978-79, the determined and recovered Carter put more emphasis on the Dirt Championship cars, incredibly winning the title in '78. During those same years in the sprints he claimed three wins and two wins, respectively. Although one win in 1979 was in the prestigious "Hulman Classic", marking the first time the event had a repeat winner.

In 1980, Pancho Carter won one feature in just eight starts in USAC sprint car competition for a career total of 42 wins. Since 1980, the 1974 Indianapolis 500 "Rookie of the Year" has concentrated his activities on CART Indy car and NASCAR stock car racing.

Duane "Pancho" Carter, Jr. currently lives in Brownsburg, Indiana.