

A Shared Passion for Racing Fuels His Need for Speed

Quinten Julian

It was a grimy, hot and dusty night at the dirt race track on June 9th, 2018. The type of night when you wipe your brow of sweat, you wipe off a bit of dirt as well, even though you're not doing anything. The temperature inside the race cars was on average 115 degrees, but 14-year-old Quinten Julian didn't care. He was locked in, (lined up 12th out of 32 cars in the night's feature race) ready to claim a title despite being surrounded by cars revving their engines.

When the green flag dropped, the cars took off raring. Except there was a problem. The track, being incredibly dusty, left Quinten and the other drivers only seven inches of visibility. He immediately ripped seven tear-offs from his helmet to try and see. A mile and a half in, he could still only see the bumper of the car in front of him, and going into turn three, there was a problem.

"I remember seeing the car in front of me stopped sideways, and then everything slowed down," he said. "I had a thousand different thoughts before I hit that car."

He hit it at 104 mph, and then everything went black.

Quinten says racing is "in his blood." His earliest memories are being at his dad's old shop, learning everything he could about fixing cars and the racing world.

Joe Julian, Quinten's dad, started working around junk yards and service repair shops when he was 14. He was asked to dirt track race an old man's race car at age 19 because of his keen knowledge of cars and the racing world. From there he did figure 8 racing and demolition derbies, and he would drag race motorcycles. Joe got notoriety from having a lot of success racing different vehicles, one being sponsored by Certified Transmission, but he really built his reputation when he opened his own shop named All Car Transmission.

Quinten said, "I believe, how he took care of people, fixing their cars, figuring out problems no one else could, building transmissions for other guys at the race track and stuff, is truly how he made the biggest connection with people."

After making the "super lates" (the super lates were a smaller class, and are now a whole NASCAR division of their own) several times, Joe decided it was time to retire when his twin daughters, Rachel and Sarah, were born in 2008.

"I still remember telling him the day he quit," Quinten recounted, "'don't worry 'cause as soon as I'm old enough I'm going to be racing.'"

He lived up to the statement he made as a 5-year-old when he applied for his NASCAR license and raced at 14. With the help of his dad, he purchased his first car and learned how to drive a manual transmission.

"This is what I dreamed of doing for as long as I can remember... Everything is so much bigger than it looks from just watching," he said.

In a night of racing, there are multiple heat races in which you must finish in the top five to compete in the night's main event, the feature race. Racing almost every Friday, Quinten impressively only missed three feature races in his entire first

year of racing.

When talking with highly advanced drivers at national events, he has been told, "We really don't see kids like you out here doing this."

Being in a class with all grown adults, Julian is the youngest driver on the track at all times by far.

But just as things were starting to go well for Quinten, a tragedy unbeknownst to many hit. His father Joe passed away on his 60th birthday, June 4th, 2018. In no way did Quinten think he'd be attending his father's funeral, nonetheless in the middle of the racing season.

Despite this immense hardship, he decided to race in honor of his father the very next weekend, but this would be the weekend of the crash.

Quinten woke up in his car. Having sent the other car into the infield wall and himself a couple hundred feet into the top wall, he groggily examined himself up and down to make sure he was all right. Being amped up with adrenaline, Quinten didn't feel anything. Instantly, the safety crews rushed out to check on him.

"I went to go jump out of the car because I was feeling good and I landed on my ankle and it folded underneath me," he remembered.

He didn't know his ankle was broken or that he had major burns on his body from the seatbelts. It wasn't until the next day that he realized he had a concussion, but didn't tell a soul.

Being beat up and bruised, Quinten didn't care. Fueled by sadness, anger, and confusion by the loss of his father, he quickly bought a new car and got it ready with the help of his brothers for the next week. Nothing could stop him from racing.

"I got this new car ready and won the very next week," he said. "That was a huge moment for me emotionally, that I was able to do this without dad being there. It gave me kind of a light at the end of the tunnel. That everything was going to be alright... That was the first time I ever won a feature race. I got a check from NASCAR for \$350 and a trophy."

This year, Quinten's race car is going to replicate the exact colors of one of his dad's former cars, coined with the number 71 as a tribute to him.

"This (racing) is all I've wanted to do, like forever," he said. "It's my escape. It's weird to say, but when I'm racing I'm thinking of anything but racing. My mind is just so calm. I feel super intune with the moment, and content with where I am at."

You can catch Quinten at the I-80 Speedway in Greenwood, Nebraska, on Friday nights anytime from April to August. No, he won't be working concessions or supporting a friend, he'll be racing. Being still the youngest driver on the track, at no surprise, Quinten has begun to make a name for himself, just as his father once did.



In Loving Memory

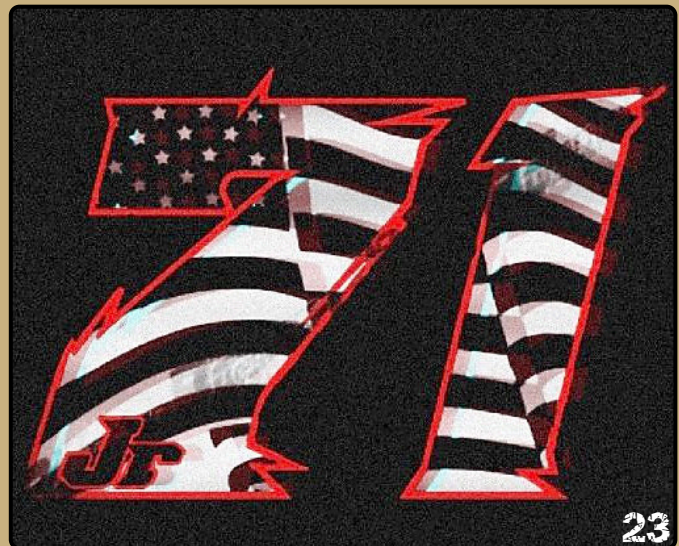
Psalm 23:1-4

*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me."*



Joe Julian



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