



Billy Venturini Fights Back From Daytona Injury, Ready To Make His Return To Racing

([PRWEB](#)) July 7, 2005 -- Nearly 4 ½ months after breaking his neck in the 2005 ARCA RE/MAX Season opener at Daytona International Speedway, Billy Venturini is prepared to make a triumphant return.

“Nobody really knew what to expect after Daytona. I just knew I wasn’t going to give up and I was going to do everything in my power to prepare myself for this moment. I never once lost sight of driving a race car again. This is what I love to do,” said Billy Venturini.

Venturini prepares to jump back into the seat.

Earlier this month the medical team of Dr. Jerry Petty, neurosurgeon, and Dr. Dom Coric, spinal injury specialist, of the Carolina Neurological and Spinal Injury Clinic in Charlotte, N.C. examined Venturini and gave him medical clearance to drive again.

Taking advantage of a week off and wasting little time Billy Venturini got back into a race car last weekend when he tested his No. 25 car at both Toledo and Kentucky Speedways.

“It felt great to be back in the car again. I feel very strong and have no doubt about competing at the same level as I did before my accident.”

Jason Jarrett who has been substituting for Venturini, will likely remain in the No.25 car for the remainder of the 2005 season while Billy Venturini will finish off the rest of the season driving a limited schedule in a second Venturini Motorsports car.

The only real noticeable change will be the number on the side of Venturini’s car. That’s right; when Billy hits the track in Kentucky he’ll be sporting the No.15. Other than the number change, Billy Venturini fans can expect to see and hear the same ole Billy on and off the track. He may have been injured, but he has not lost his style.

“The decision to keep Jarrett in the No.25 car makes sense for our team at this time. Jason has done a terrific job for us and is in the hunt for a solid Top 10 season finish despite missing the Daytona race,” says team owner, Bill Venturini, Sr.

“Billy knows this is a team effort and understands the direction of this program. Billy has worked extra hard to keep himself both mentally and physically sharp, and last weeks testing sessions proved it. He was really solid,” added Bill Sr.

Let’s go back almost 5 months.

The date was February 12, 2005, a day Billy Venturini will never forget. It was more than just another race for this third-generation driver; it was Daytona, the biggest stage in Motorsports.



Months of preparation preceded the biggest race of the year. Venturini rolled into Daytona armed with a new team sponsor and dreams of chasing down a Series championship. This was to be Venturini's breakout year, and he was ready to make his mark at Daytona International.

But unfortunately for Venturini his goals and racing season would change in a moment's notice. With just 2 laps remaining in the Advance Auto Discount 200 at Daytona International Speedway, a horrific multi-car crash broke out on the backstretch.

The wreck collected Venturini as he tried to avoid the chaos. This was the "Big One" and the aftermath left Venturini with a broken neck and severe ligament damage. In a flash Venturini's future was severely in doubt.

Badly injured, Venturini left Daytona down but not out.

"Life is full of unexpected turns, and you just have to stay positive and keep focused to achieve your goals no matter how bad the situation is," says Venturini.

A determined Venturini went home to Concord, North Carolina to begin his rehabilitation. Never missing a beat, Billy did what he had to do to get back into the driver's seat, including months of therapy and a new unfamiliar role with the team.

Racing has been a part of life for the Venturini family for decades. So when former ARCA Rookie of the Year, Jason Jarrett, stepped in to replace the injured Venturini, it was business as usual.

So Billy soon found himself atop the pit box watching the action and calling the shots for Jason. Venturini settled into his new role nicely.

The team moved forward with Jarrett and Venturini working together.

"Jason is one heck of a driver. We've competed against each other for years and have developed a great relationship off the track. I knew we would work well together," said Venturini.

Billy admits his time away from the driver's seat will ultimately make him a better driver.

"For the first time in my career I've been forced to watch things from a different vantage point. It's taught me a bunch - it's a whole lot different than driving 200 mph. I'm going to take this experience and use it to my advantage," added Venturini.

Venturini will make his return to the track when he takes the green flag at the WLWT Channel 5-150 on Friday, July 8, 2005 at Kentucky Speedway. The race will be aired live on SPEED Channel starting at 8:00 PM EST.

Billy's comeback tour is expected to roll into Berlin, Lake Erie, Toledo, Chicago, Nashville, and Talladega.

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