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Driver: Paulie Harraka
Owner: Richie Wauters
Crew Chief: Richie Wauters
Truck: No. 5 Wauters Motorsports Ford F-150
Chassis: 002

Social Media

www.WautersMotorsports.com
Facebook: Wauters Motorsports
Twitter: @WautersMotors5

www.PaulHarraka.net
Facebook: Paul Harraka
Twitter: @PaulieHarraka

Wauters Motorsports & Paulie Harraka Debut at Daytona for NCWTS Season Opener
'New team & New Driver Together Take to the High Banks at Daytona International Speedway February 24th'

Wauters Motorsports, with veteran crew chief turned team owner Richie Wauters, head to the historic Daytona International Speedway with Sunoco Rookie of the Year contender Paulie Harraka for the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series season opener on Friday, February 24, 2012.

NASCAR Camping World Truck Series
Race 1 of 22
NextEra Energy Resources 250
 (100 LAPS, 250 MILES)

Paulie Harraka, a Duke University senior and former champion in NASCAR's Whelen All-American Series, will make his first start in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series at Daytona International Speedway piloting the No. 5 Ford F-150 in the NEXTERA Energy Resources 250.

Friday, February 24, 2012 7:30pm ET
Daytona International Speedway:
 2.5-mile superspeedway, 31 degrees banking in corners, 3 degrees backstretch, 18 degrees tri-oval

Harraka made his first start on the 2.5-mile superspeedway in the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards on February 18th (start 36 – finish 26). Harraka was running in the eighth-place position with five-laps remaining and was spun but recovered to finish the race. Harraka competed on the road course at Daytona in go-karts, winning twice in 2004.

Broadcast schedule

- Live SPEED Televised coverage Friday, Feb. 24th at 7:00pm
- Live radio coverage begins at 7:15pm on MRN & Sirius Satellite Radio
- Live Televised Practice on SPEED Thursday, Feb. 23rd 12:00pm & 6:30pm
- Live Televised Qualifying on SPEED, Friday, Feb. 24th at 4:00pm

"Having my first NCWTS start at Daytona will be a dream come true for me, and I am blessed to have the chance to do so. The high banks at Daytona are certainly breathtaking, and I've been gazing at them since I was 5 years old. To get to drive on them is an amazing opportunity and one that I intend to make the most of." Paulie Harraka said. "I believe Richie (Wauters) and I will work very well together. He's the type of experienced veteran I believe will be a huge asset to me as I have a steep learning curve ahead of me. Richie and I are racers to the core, willing to put in whatever hours are necessary, and make whatever sacrifice is needed, to win races."

Although this is the first race for the No. 5 Wauters Motorsports team, owner Richie Wauters, has a vast amount of experience at the famed Daytona International Speedway in his tenure as a NASCAR Camping World Truck Series crew chief. Wauters has six previous crew chief starts on the superspeedway with a best finish of second place in 2008 with Kyle Busch, as well as, three top-15 finishes and one start from the pole-position, Kerry Earnhardt, 2005.

"We are extremely excited about racing with Paulie in Daytona," Wauters said. "He has an amazing track record behind him in several series and I am sure he will be a fierce competitor in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. Obviously, there will be a learning curve but with the team behind Paulie and his willingness to learn it won't be long before he is running out front, leading laps and winning races."

Harraka has been awarded the rookie of the year title in two NASCAR Series: NASCAR Whelen All American Series and NASCAR Camping World Series West (Now K&N Pro Series West) and hopes to continue the tradition with the 2012 Sonoco Rookie of the Year honors.



Photo: Scott Hunter



About Team Owner Richie Wauters:

Veteran NASCAR crew chief Richie Wauters takes the leap into NASCAR Camping World Truck Series team ownership forming Wauters Motorsports which in 2012 will be driven by Sunoco Rookie of the Year contender Paulie Harraka.

Wauters' career began at tracks around his hometown Green Bay, Wis. and quickly moved into the NASCAR Touring Series. Wauters crewed successful NASCAR Sprint Cup teams with drivers Kenny Wallace, Elliott Sadler, Robert Pressley and Jeff Green.

Wauters, in his tenure as a crew chief in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series, led teams to 17 victories from 2004-2010 with drivers Shane Hmiel, Kyle Busch and Aric Almirola.

"It is something I thought about for awhile," Richie Wauters said of his decision to become a team owner. "I had the opportunity to buy some trucks and have a great driver headlining the team. It hasn't been a difficult transition so far and we are really excited about the season. The NASCAR Camping World Truck Series is very competitive and I'm certain Paulie and the guys on this team will be right in the thick of that competition."

In his off time Wauters still focuses on racing with his Late Model team. The team won the legendary Snowball Derby in 2004 at Pensacola Speedway in Florida and finished second in 2005. His NASCAR Southeast Series team has nine wins over two seasons. The team won the Southeastern Elite Division championship and won the last race of the Elite Division at the Phoenix International Raceway in 2006.

Wauters has worked with such drivers as: Davey Allison, Aric Almirola, John Andretti, Kyle Busch, Bill Elliott, Jeff Green, Scott Hanson, Denny Hamlin, Alan Kulwicki, Mark Martin, Paul Menard, David Regan, Elliot Sadler, Jimmy Spencer, Dick Trickle, Kenny Wallace and Steven Wallace.



About Paulie Harraka

Birthday: Sept. 15, 1989

Hometown: Wayne, N.J.

Resides: Durham, NC

www.PaulHarraka.net

Facebook: Paul Harraka

Twitter: @PaulieHarraka



Photo Scott Hunter

PAULIE HARRAKA HAS BEEN CALLED MANY THINGS, BUT COMMON HAS NEVER BEEN ONE OF THEM...

Beginning in go-karts, Harraka began a racing career that took motorsports by storm. Within 3 years, and before his 10th birthday, he was National Champion. The next year, he was World Champion. 6 World Championships later, and after a move to ¾ scale Legends Cars, Harraka still found himself in the Winner's Circle. He also found himself at a crossroads: he had just graduated high school with a 4.38 GPA.

To Harraka, it was obvious: take the advice of Mike Krzyzewski and "Erect no artificial walls that might limit potential, stifle creativity, or shackle innovation." So what did Harraka do? "I wanted to be the most complete racecar driver in the world," he explains. "So I went to Duke University to study engineering, sports psychology, leadership, and business. And I interned in R&D at Joe Gibbs Racing, following it up with a stint in Corporate Marketing at NASCAR's Manhattan office."

Harraka is now a senior at Duke, getting ready to graduate. But don't think he stopped racing to do it. He traveled, almost every weekend, to a NASCAR race. While a student at Duke, he won countless NASCAR races, the Championship in NASCAR's Whelen All-American Series, and 2 different NASCAR Rookie of the Year titles. He's still climbing NASCAR's ladder, and is the sport's brightest young star.

Beyond that, he's a Celebrity Ambassador for Childhelp, a national nonprofit that works with abused, neglected, and at risk children. No wonder Harraka's been featured on everything from ESPN and Sports Illustrated to Fox News and The New York Times.