



Erik Darnell – NNS DARLINGTON ADVANCE

Team: No. 6 Northern Tool + Equipment Ford Fusion
Crew Chief: Mike Kelley
Chassis: 296 Last outing: Backup for David Ragan at the April 2009 Nationwide race at Nashville

Erik Darnell Track Notes

- Darnell made his 2009 Nationwide Series debut last week at Richmond International Raceway where he started 20th and finished 12th.
- Following Richmond, the No. 6 team is still fifth in the owner points.
- This isn't the first go around for Darnell at Darlington. It was at the track in 2005 when Darnell was crowned the winner of the Discovery Channel's "Roush Fenway Racing: Driver X." He also tested at the raceway while in the Camping World Truck Series last season.
- Following Darlington, Darnell's next race will be on June 6 at Nashville Superspeedway for the Federated Auto Parts 300.

Erik Darnell on racing at Darlington Raceway:

"Darlington is a fun track to go to. My first experience there was back when I participated in the Gong Show a couple of years ago, but that was on the old configuration. Last year we took the truck down there after they had laid the new asphalt surface covering the bumps on the track which made the truck go even faster. I'm excited to be back in the No. 6 Northern Tool + Equipment Ford Fusion for the second week in a row. I would have liked to have had a better finish there this past weekend, but I tell you what these cars are a work in progress. When you've been in a truck for the last three years and nothing else, then switch over to the car, there's a difference with the way they handle on the track. I realized that in Richmond and I know the more time I get in the car, the better it's going to be for me out there this season."

Crew chief Mike Kelley on racing at Darlington Raceway:

"Darlington is a very fast race track which can cause disaster for your tires. The tire issue can make or break your day at the track. We need to play it smart out there Friday night and not take too many chances early on. I was really proud of the race Erik ran last week. Sure there are going to be times throughout the season that he is going to struggle, but the team knows what he is capable of out there on the track. I know he doesn't have a ton of experience at Darlington, but he's a smart driver and things seem to come to him fairly easy, so I think we should be in pretty good shape this weekend."