



Erik Darnell – NNS RICHMOND ADVANCE

Team: No. 6 Northern Tool + Equipment Ford Fusion

Crew Chief: Mike Kelley

Chassis: 632 Last outing: Making 2009 season debut

Erik Darnell Track Notes

- Friday night's Lipton Tea 250 is the first of 15 races for Darnell in the No. 6 Northern Tool + Equipment Ford Fusion for 2009.
- This will be Darnell's first race at Richmond International Raceway.
- Darnell tested chassis 632 earlier this year at Rockingham Speedway.
- Darnell made his Nationwide Series debut last year at the Corona Mexico 200 in Mexico City where he started 14th and finished 26th.
- In eight races this season with David Ragan driving the No. 6 Discount Tire car, the team has one win, three top-five and six top-10 finishes. The team is currently fifth in the owner points.
- In 76 career starts in the Camping World Truck Series, Darnell accumulated two wins, three poles, 16 top-five and 32 top-10 finishes. He ended the 2008 season fourth in the driver standings.
- A track similar to Richmond is Memphis Motorsports Park, where Darnell dominated in three Camping World Truck Series races. He had a starting average of 5.0 and a finishing average of 4.3.

Erik Darnell on racing at Richmond International Raceway:

"I'm really excited about getting behind the wheel of the No. 6 Northern Tool + Equipment Ford Fusion for the first time this season. I've done a lot testing over the last several months in the car and I'm just ready to go racing. I have practiced both the truck and car at Richmond before, but that is it. This will be my first oval track race in a car and I know it will be a learning experience out there with 42 other drivers on the track. Richmond reminds me of Memphis with both being $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile oval tracks. I had quite a bit of success there while in the truck series and I'm hoping it carries over to Friday night. I know Mike Kelley and the crew have been working hard to get the car ready for Richmond, so if I can get a good qualifying time and keep that track position we should be in pretty good shape."

Crew Chief Mike Kelley on racing at Richmond International Raceway:

"I'm looking forward to be working with Erik and Northern Tool + Equipment this season. This weekend is certainly special for Erik with this being his first race of the season. We are bringing a brand new car to Richmond, so it should be exciting to see what Erik can do in it. We've run well here with David over the past couple of races bringing home two top-five finishes. Track position is going to be very important Friday night. Who knows, if everything goes as planned this 6 team may just come away with back-to-back victories."