

SPORTS EDITOR: DAVE BOEHLER

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Show me a guy who's afraid to look bad, and I'll show you a guy you can beat every time."
- Lou Brock

Here's the pitch

■ McMullen gets to take the mound before Brewers game

Dan McMullen still doesn't know how or why he was picked to throw out the first pitch at a recent Milwaukee Brewers game. Not that he's complaining.

"It was an amazing opportunity," the science and religion teacher at St. John the Baptist said. "I was very fortunate to have been able to do that. It's something I'll always remember."

About a week before the school's fifth-through-eighth graders attended CBS 58's Weather Day on April 20 at American Family Field, SJB's principal approached McMullen.

"She said I was selected to be able to do this," he said. "I wanted to know who to thank and she said the people would like to remain anonymous."

McMullen, who graduated from Plymouth in 2005 but never played baseball, practiced pitching to his wife one day at the Panthers' home field.

"Just to figure out the dis-

Dave Boehler

THE REVIEW
SPORTS EDITOR



tance, make sure I could get it there and somewhat accurately," McMullen said.

So how did he look?

"Rough," McMullen said.

"My wife was chasing a lot of balls to the backstop. But it did help, though. Because it's longer than you think it is, and then trying to throw it over the plate, it's smaller than it seems like it is. So I appreciate what pitchers - at every level - can do."

Some 15 minutes or so before the National Anthem, McMullen was already on the actually field. He received some instructions from Brewers officials and then it was his turn to take the mound.

"When I ran out, I made sure to turn around and look at the section where our students

were, so they could see me waving at them," McMullen said.

"Jogging out to the mound, I didn't want to trip or scuff the first base line - I was told I couldn't do that - and once I got there, I made sure I toed the rubber, because I'm not going to pass up that opportunity. I looked at the catcher and just threw the ball."

The pitch was even a strike, as McMullen's only goal was for the ball to cross the plate.

"I didn't want to bounce it or anything," he said. "The catcher dropped it, which everyone joked it was too much heat for him. But I know that's not the case."

At the time, McMullen was unaware this was all being shown on the giant scoreboard in center field.

"It didn't even occur to me," he said. "So luckily people had taken videos of it and they showed me after the fact. So I got to take it all in. But in those moments, I think it was just all adrenaline."



DAN McMULLEN throws out the first pitch before Milwaukee's game on April 20. - Photo courtesy of Brewers

Green flag set for Saturday

by **Jeff Pederson**

Sheboygan Falls News Editor

Plymouth Dirt Track Racing drivers, fans, workers and supporters are ready to go full throttle into the new season.

The 18th year of PDTR competition and 62nd overall of regular weekly racing competition is set to begin Saturday at the Sheboygan County Fairgrounds.

"During COVID, we worked out a plan with local officials that allowed us to race within certain guidelines," PDTR Marketing and Promotions Director Bill Weinaug said.

"With very few activities going on, we became a place to go for something to do which

brought new fans and families to the track. Last year a lot of those fans came back along with new ones."

In addition to the regular weekly program, which features 360 Sprint Cars, Late Models, Grand Nationals and B Mods, the season is currently scheduled to feature a return appearance by the national touring Tezos All-Star Circuit of Champions 410 Sprint Car Series in conjunction with the Bumper to Bumper Interstate Racing Association (IRA) Series on May 21.

Another major highlight is a special weeknight IRA 410 Sprint Car Series event held in conjunction with the NASCAR Cup Series weekend at nearby Road America on June 30.

PDTR PREVIEW



FORMER CHAMPION Brandon McMullen (98) is among the drivers expected to race this summer.

- Photo by RC Custom Design

Both all-Sprint Car special events will also feature the PDTR 360 Sprint Cars.

Among the drivers tentatively expected to compete in the All Star-IRA event on May 21 include defending All-Star Series champion Tyler Courtney of Indianapolis and four-time champion Tim Shaffer of Aliquippa, Penn.

Leading the local contingent of drivers are second-year All-Star Series regular and 10-time IRA Series champion Bill Balog of Hartland, who earned his first career All-Star Series victory at The Plymouth Dirt Track last June, and Scotty Thiel of Sheboygan, as well as former IRA Series champions Scotty Neitzel of Beaver Dam, Jeremy

Schultz of Beaver Dam, and Jake Blackhurst of Hanna City, Ill.

"We have a nice variety with our regular divisions and the different touring series coming in during the course of the season," Weinaug said. "The All-Star Sprint Car Series is coming back on May 21st, which is at the top of the list of special events for us."

"We also have the Dirt Kings Late Models, IRA 410 Sprint Cars, INEX Legends and Badger Midgets, as well as the Vintage Modifieds joining us in 2022."

The INEX Legends cars will make a very rare appearance,

See **RACING/19**

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