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Gary's Dream Comes True; Attends Bristol Race

Gary Suddath, his wife, Jan, and her dad, JD Waldrop, were guests of NASCAR last weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway. Gary was diagnosed with ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease over two years ago and it has been his wish to go to a race at the famed track. Thanks to a lot of caring folks, Gary got his wish last weekend.

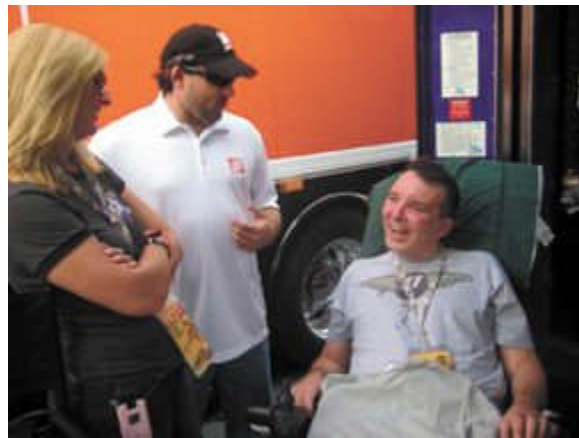
Denny Hamlin and Gibbs Racing were contacted by a friend of Jan whose husband works for the team. That put the possibility of the trip into action.

NASCAR jumped in and arranged for the three to get "Hot passes" so they could be in the pit area for the Cup race.

"They couldn't have been nicer," said Jan. "The (Gibbs) crews even brought out their fans and pointed them at Gary to keep him cool. They said if they won, they even wanted us in the winner's circle. Denny Hamlin was very nice and Tony Stewart spent a lot of time with us. Gary had a big smile on his face the whole time. It was just wonderful."

The trio arrived at the track about 4 p.m. and was whisked into the infield. The race started about 8:30 p.m., but by about 9:30 Gary was beginning to feel the effects of the strenuous day, so they left to get back to the hotel. That's about the time Hamlin's engine blew.

Besides Gibbs Racing and NASCAR, Suzie at Doug Herbert Performance in Lincolnton arranged for their hotel stay courtesy of Herbert. Thanks to all of these and everyone involved in Gary's "wish come true."



Jan and Gary Suddath with Tony Stewart