

I wanted to take a moment to share a little bit about Hunter Young. My family met Hunter and the Young family in the summer of 2018 when my son; who was 6 at the time starting racing quarter midgets. Hunter, who was 13 at the time instantly connected with my son and started helping Jonathon and explaining things to help us become more knowledgeable of the sport. For a thirteen year old I was in awe of his maturity, eager to work and respect for others. Hunter became another "son" to me. He has traveled all over the country throughout the last four years with us. There are days that our family would not know what to do without him.

In April of 2021, we were traveling home from North Carolina after a race. Hunter wasn't able to go with us because he wanted to stay home and practice his sprint car for the upcoming season. My phone rang and I was informed by my daughter that Hunter had wrecked his sprint car and was being life flighted to the hospital and at the time it's all she knew! I had a long 6 hours left of the trip and was anxious to get home so I could find out more news.

We had learned that he had severe burns to his feet and significant burns to thighs, arm and hand. For weeks, he was in and out of stable condition. infection after infection, procedure after procedure! My family and another went to the courtyard of Children's and held huge banners and they were able to get him to a window to see us! I would literally wake up requesting updates from him or his Mom. Receiving a snap chat from him would be the highlight of our days!

Once he came home he was determined to be at the racetrack trying to help people. Trying his damdest to not let this tragedy win! The strength he was showing to the young kids was immeasurable and you can't put a value on that. This young man's determination, strength, and bravery at 17 years old is beyond most grown men.

I wish him all the luck in his great future and will do what I have to do within my means to help him be successful!

I encourage you to consider passing Bill 278