



PROFILE

The Kelly Sutton Story





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NASCAR Driver. Single Mother. Hero. Role Model.

When Kelly Sutton was born on September 24, 1971, in Crownsville, Maryland, she entered the world with her destiny pre-determined. She is a third-generation racer following in the tracks of her father and grandfather. Kelly's grandfather, Charlie Sutton, raced in Maryland tracks in a 1937 flat-head Ford Sedan, and Kelly's Father, Ed Sutton, raced drag cars and stock cars. All 3 generations of Suttons have won the same prestigious Metropolitan Auto Racing Club of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania...Charlie Sutton in 1962, Kelly's dad in 1976 and Kelly herself in 1994!

Racing fascinated this competitive kid from Maryland and would eventually lead her to become one of the few women qualified to compete in NASCAR's top three tiers. It was also during this time of growing up in Maryland that Kelly knew part of her destiny was to unselfishly help others who may be suffering from a disability. Her family often tells stories about how Kelly would use money or resources that were given to her to help others who she felt could use it more than her.



Kelly began her official racing career at the early age of 12 in 1983. The dirt tracks of Maryland were her proving grounds, following closely in the tracks of her father and grandfather. Kelly faced challenging invisible obstacles from an early age, including prejudice against a female driver, jealousy, scrutiny and exclusion. But this kid from Maryland would not have any part of that. Her goal was to be a professional race car driver and compete in NASCAR. This was her passion. This was her calling. So no obstacles deterred her from realizing her goals.

At age 16, Kelly was thrown a hard challenge when she was diagnosed with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS). She began battling her fight against MS. By the time Kelly was 25, she found herself in a wheelchair. Her dreams of racing seemed to have slipped away. But she did not give up. Her family would not let her. With the help of her neurologist, they found the right balance of diet, exercise, and medication that allowed Kelly to miraculously resume racing. Her father Ed would not let her give up. He even built an exercise machine in the shape of a race car that helped Kelly gain strength and maintain her passion for racing.



In 2003, Kelly's dream finally came true when she had the opportunity to finally enter the fast-paced, male-dominated world of NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series. Her peers and fellow drivers have grown to call her courageous, highly-skilled, exciting to race against, and a great asset to the NASCAR Truck Series. The harsh racing environment presents another challenge to Kelly as she manages her MS daily in an extreme environment of heat, overexertion, physical and mental extremes. This meant to Kelly that she needed to work harder, longer and smarter if she was to stay on top of her dreams. Kelly's resolve for being a professional driver at the NASCAR level was stronger than ever.

Her achievements in professional racing include:

- 2005 Featherlite Most Improved Driver Award from NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series
- Holds the record for best female finish at Daytona in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series (17th)
- First woman to win regionally or nationally in the Allison National Legacy Series
- The 2002 Most Popular Driver Award, Goody's Dash Series

Off the track, she has been a long-time role model and hero for men and women of all ages, including a large following of fans who share the distinction of living with MS themselves.

- Recipient of the prestigious 2004 Gene Autry Courage Award
- Recipient of the 2003 Wilma Rudolph Courage Award from the Women's Sports Foundation (past recipients include Martina Navratilova and Gail Devers)

Her national presence and celebrity through the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series gave her the opportunity in 2006 to start her own non-profit mission: "Let It Shine – The Kelly Sutton Foundation". The purpose of the "Let It Shine" Foundation is to raise awareness and funds to assist people who have Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and do not have the means to support themselves during relapse and/or immediate crisis situations.

The kid from Crownsville, Maryland who stood on a milk crate to be with her dad under the hood of a race car...the kid who knew no obstacles...the kid who faced a shocking diagnosis and life-long battle of MS at age 16...the kid, who today, raises her beautiful 16-year old daughter Ashlee...the kid from Maryland who is now one of only two women professional drivers who compete in NASCAR's top three tiers...this kid from Maryland who influences people across the country with legions of fans, many afflicted with MS themselves, and many of them women supporting a woman blazing new trails...this great kid from Maryland who grew up to become... the "Maryland Comeback Kid."



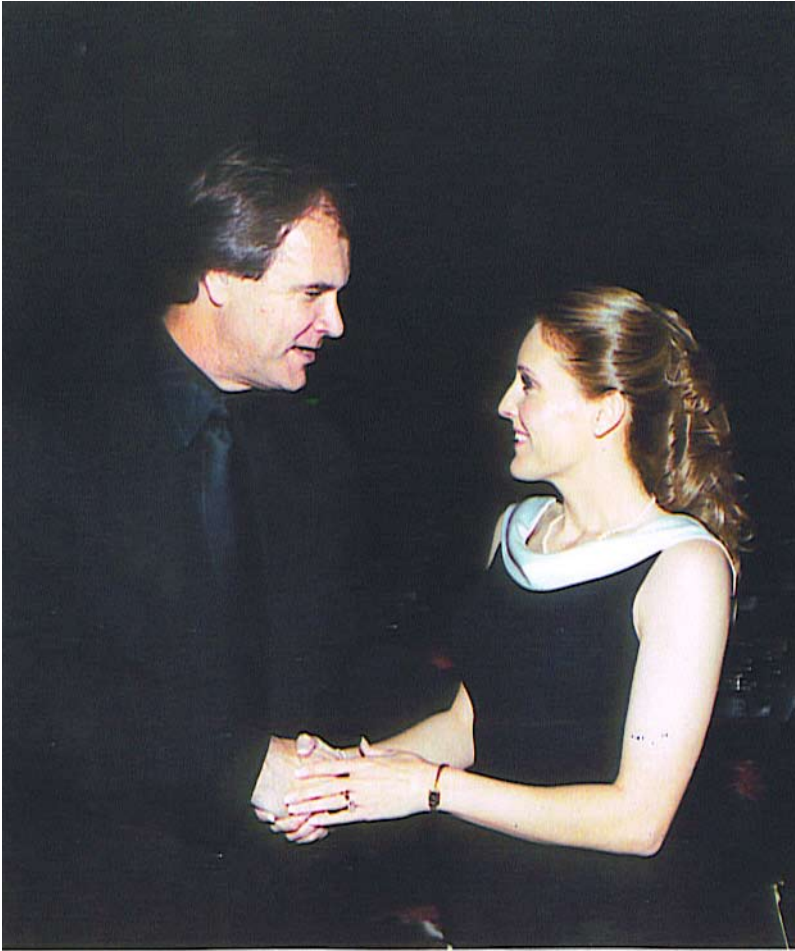


A KISS FOR KELLY



T.J. Salsman/The State Journal-Register

Kelly "Girl" Sutton, a NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series driver, gets a kiss from a 2-year-old fan, Christina Karen Dilley, during an appearance Thursday at the Hilton Garden Inn. Sutton, who has multiple sclerosis, said, "Everywhere I go, I'm able to connect with other women and men, many of whom are successfully managing this disease and living their dreams." Sutton will race Saturday at Gateway International Raceway in Madison.



Kelly and Brian Belleck, Head Coach for the Baltimore Ravens