

Ed Samples



In 1944 a similar type incident that happened to his friend Lloyd Seay three years earlier, happened to him. A disagreement over some liquor at a house in Dawsonville left him with a gunshot wound to the stomach. Fortunately after two months at a Gainesville Hospital he recovered. Finding a safer occupation, he turned to stock car racing. Over a span of ten years from 1946 to 1955 he accumulated 2 national championships, three state championships, numerous poles, several track records and over 100 documented feature event wins across the Eastern U.S. He won the first points championship for stock cars under Bill France before NASCAR was formed.

In 1950 he had his worst accident at Lakewood Speedway in Atlanta where a tire blew during qualifying and left him in the hospital for the next three months. Race car driver Harold Fryar entered the fairgrounds and was showing Ed the roll bars he had installed in his car and told Ed they were the latest thing and that he needed to get him some. Ed laughed, and said, "Harold: those are for people that wreck."

Samples said his biggest thrill was in Statesville, North Carolina in 1947. His engine had problems and there would be an hour delay if he were going to make the race. It was announced over the loudspeaker and fans voted to wait on him ... that to him it meant much more than any championship.