



Driver Spotlight

United States Solider to Make Return to Lebanon I-44 Speedway

Most of you, that have attended a race here at Lebanon I-44 Speedway, know that we have a strong relationship with our Nation's Military personnel with Fort Leonard Wood right down the road, but no relationship is stronger than the one between Chris Kerperien and Lebanon I-44 Speedway. Chris was deployed to Kuwait on August 26th of 2017 and returned to the United States on May 21st, 2018. While deployed, he tracked maintenance on Army equipment across six countries. Now that he is home, he cannot wait to climb back into his No. 15 Modified on June 2nd.

Chris's love for racing started in 2012. "When I was a Drill Sargent in Fort Wood I sold my motorcycle and bought a Modified from a Marine. He told me about the Johnson family, they helped me put the car together in the winter of 2012 and I started racing in 2013," added Kerperien. Since 2012, the relationship between Chris and the Johnson family has grown stronger. Chris Johnson and Chris Kerperien have made many memories over the years, like camping out in the pits the night before the NASCAR K&N Series race and spending countless hours in the shop getting their cars ready for the next race.

Chris hasn't been around racing his entire life like a lot of the other racers, but he has been willing to learn. "I didn't know a lot about the Roper family or Larry Phillips, but I have learned so much about them and



Chris Kerperien maneuvering his No. 15 Modified around Lebanon I-44 Speedway. *Photo Provided by Lebanon I-44 Speedway*

it is really special,” stated Kerperien. Chris never misses an opportunity to brag on his fellow drivers either. “I brag about guys like Cole Williams or the Donahue brothers when I see them on TV. I tell people at work that I got to race with these guys, I love promoting the drivers and the track in general,” said Chris.

Chris’s main goal for the 2018 season is to just have fun, build relationships with his fans, and make more memories with his friends and family. Chris will only be able to race four races this year as he will be deployed again in September. He is also very excited to watch Brecken Johnson race her second ever Street Stock race on June 2nd. “I am excited to see how she does, she is like a daughter to me,” added Kerperien. Chris has served in the Military for the past 19 years, once he retires he plans on continuing his racing career and hopefully track down some race wins and a Championship one day.

Chris Kerperien’s first race of the 2018 season will be Saturday, June 2nd. Come on out and cheer on the No. 15 Modified and be sure to head down to the pits after the races and thank him for all he has done for our Country! Until then, check out our website at i44speedway.net or our Facebook page at Lebanon I-44 Speedway to keep up with track news and updates!

By Dylan Bates