

Art Liedl Bringing Roush Yates Racing Engine To United Racing Company Action

By **JERRY REIGLE**

FLEMINGTON, NJ – Art Liedl, 39, of Flemington, N.J., has always been a big Ford-powered fan.

And now, he's setting the trend as he will be the first to use a Roush Yates-designed and built 360 Sprint Car engine with the United Racing Company this season.

"I have always loved Fords," Liedl said. "Ever since I was a little kid, my grandfather had Fords. I think he worked in a Ford plant."

Liedl first heard about the Roush Yates engine by reading *Area Auto Racing News*.

"I read the paper as soon as I get it on Wednesdays," Liedl said. "I read it where they had an engine on display up in New York."

"I thought it would be really cool to have a Ford engine. I printed out a picture, because I thought it was so cool. I read where they were asking \$25,000 for an engine and I was like there is no way I can afford it."

But passion and desire can overcome all obstacles.

"I looked on the website and e-mailed Jeremy Anderson," Liedl said. "I didn't think they would respond to me."

"I mean, I'm just some dirt-track guy and here I am e-mailing guys who deal with NASCAR engines. I am a local guy, so I didn't think they would bother."

Anderson responded to Liedl's e-mail. The two made contact and learned both would be in attendance at the Motorsports 2009 Show in Atlantic City, N.J.

"Jeremy said they were coming with an engine," Liedl said. "At that point, they said they probably wouldn't have a car."/p

"Well, I was taking my car to AC. At that point, I was 85 percent sure I was going to have a Ford engine. I built the motor plates and had the Ford insignia where the engine would be."

Once at the show set-up, Liedl made contact with Anderson and a friendship was struck. In fact, Liedl and his 11-year-old daughter, Ashley, were helping to unload equipment for the Roush Yates engine display.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "We're walking into the Yates motorcycle trailer and helping them unload the equipment and set up the display."

Anderson and staff took such a liking and appreciation for Liedl that they wore his buttons throughout the weekend.

“After about a week-and-a-half, I was ready to get an engine,” he said. “I knew what I wanted as soon as I read about it and I couldn’t believe it after it all worked out.”

Liedl is stoked about bringing some debate over the Blue Oval vs. Bow-tie.

“I am very excited about it,” Liedl said. “I sort of feel like the black sheep out there.

“Having and working with a Chevrolet is easy. I like that fact that I am out there with a Ford.”

Liedl said he will have the Roush Yates engine in time for next month’s URC opener at Bridgeport Speedway. Before the URC opener, Liedl will drive his Super Sportsman at Williams Grove and Lincoln speedways.

Liedl has LaYogurt returning again this year along with Dows Ford, Johanna Foods, Central Jersey Signs, Amwell Auto Body, DeMaio Electrical Inc., Dave’s NMT and Fitness, Art’s Radiator, Sanlee LLC Rental, Dover Brake and Clutch, Mystic Screen Painting, MS Race Systems, Action Pumping Services and Wm. Stothoff Co. Inc.

More important, Liedl is chasing URC all season.

“It is a challenge,” he said. “I dabbled in it last year, but I was going after my fifth SS Sprint title at New Egypt Speedway.

“Now, I am 100 percent focused on URC. I am focused on doing as good as I possibly can.”

And there is an added benefit.

“Roush Racing won at Daytona and California,” Liedl said. “I won Best Appearing Award at Atlantic City. I see a trend.”

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