

## **Earl “Parnelli” Jones**

### ***Driver***

Earl ‘Parnelli’ Jones began his racing career in 1964 – the same year Oxford Plains Speedway re-opened and introduced full-body Sportsman cars to Maine racing fans. A 20-year driving career began when he filled in for Billy Clark for the 1964 Triple Crown Series – where he finished in the top 3 in all three races – and ended when he helped NASCAR star Bill Elliott get around Oxford Plains in 1984. In between, Earl competed on all of Maine’s racetracks – Beech Ridge Speedway, Unity Raceway, Wiscasset Speedway and Speedway 95 in addition to Oxford Plains. His racing wasn’t limited to his home state as he made several trips to Nova Scotia where he won a major race in Halifax in 1976. But Earl faced his greatest challenge not only as a race driver but in life took place in 1967 when he lost the sight in his right eye. He returned to racing the next year with a new blue and gold Ford and continued his winning ways. During his career, Earl won over 20 Sportsman races – fifteen of those at Oxford – and three Figure Eight events, also at his home track. He was famous for his blue and gold #19 Fords, but he also drove Dodges for Dave Coffin in the early 1980’s.

