

JOHN PHIPPEN JR

DRIVER / FABRICATOR / BUILDER

“Big” John Phippen was a larger-than-life character, and one of the sports nicest people ever to strap into a race car. But the adage “nice guys finish last” doesn’t apply to John. Not only did he win a lot of races, he managed to do it at nearly every track he drove on. John Phippen Jr broke into the racing game in the late 70’s at Unity Raceway. Shortly after winning a pair of Street Stock championships (81 & 82) he made the jump up to Pro Stock and won the Unity track championship in his rookie season of 1984. From there he branched out to Speedway 95, Spud Speedway and eventually Wiscasset Speedway among others. Many weekends it would be common for John to run three different tracks around the state from Friday through Sunday. Wins and titles began stacking up through the next 20 years for John with Speedway 95 crowns in 87’, 95’, 06’ and 09’ and a Wiscasset Pro Stock title in 99’, making him only the second driver ever to win championships at all three tracks – a feat matched only by the great Stan Meserve. Big John was also well known for one of the most unique victory lap celebrations ever, where instead of driving the checkers around the track, he would get out of his car and run the checkers around the top 3 cars ending his lap with “Thank you very much, thanks for coming” to the cheering fans. But the most prideful part of his career – even more than the multiple championships – were all the of the Sportsmanship honors he received and his relationship with fans & fellow drivers. He was one of the most well liked & respected drivers of his time. He was a 2021 inductee in the Wiscasset Speedway Hall of Fame and now a 2022 inductee in the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame.

