NICK ANGLACE:
THE DRIVER WITH UCONN BEHIND HIM

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Most race car drivers start learning to race at a young age, moving up the ranks as they grow up. For Nick Anglace, though, that wasn't the case.

Anglace has proven to be as successful as the drivers around him since coming back to racing after a seven-year gap in 2018.

Anglace started karting in 2009 at seven years old before taking a seven-year hiatus two years later. For most drivers, that would be a death sentence for their careers, and the possibility to make it back to racing after leaving for seven years is almost none. Anglace, though, made it happen. In 2018, he started racing again at the New London-Waterford Speedbowl in the SK Light Modified Series.

Anglace's time at the Speedbowl was mixed as he was learning how to race again. He often got involved in other people's wrecks, which hindered his growth as a driver at times. But he made it work, finishing fourth in the standings that year.

After that lone season at the Speedbowl, Anglace made the move to Stafford Speedway in Stafford Springs, Conn.

During that 2019 season, Anglace once again raced in the SK Light Modified Series and finished in seventh, with three top fives and 14 top 10s.

The following year, Anglace again finished in seventh with three top fives, but this time with 10 top 10s in 13 races.

In 2021, Anglace went backwards in the standings, finishing in 13th, but he showed a lot of improvement, winning not once, but twice over the course of the season.

The first came on May 21, while the second came not long after on July 30.

"My father raced at Stafford and Waterford since 1991 and he did it all those years, not a lot of full seasons cause he would have to take care of me with football and everything else, but in the times that he would run he'd finish second and third a lot but ultimately never won," Anglace said. "He had a fast car every week and he just never won, so when we got that first win in May that was a big deal because our name was finally in the Stafford record books as a winner."

In 2022, Anglace was once again winless, but he did improve in the standings, finishing in 11th with four top five placements and seven top 10 placements.

In 2023, Anglace went backwards in the standings, but had a career high in top fives with six. In 2024, he did it again, improving to seven top 10s while moving up to ninth in the standings.

In 2025, Anglace took a massive jump, moving up to fifth in the standings while winning three races. This time, he had a secret weapon.

Anglace added the University of Connecticut as his main sponsor in 2025 due to a LinkedIn message he sent to UConn's Director of Brand Partnership and Trademark Management, Kyle Muncy.

"It was a cold LinkedIn message of just like, 'hey, this is the idea I have, I would love to talk to you more about this' and he's like, 'how [does] next week sound,'" Anglace said. "When we had those meetings, I kept it under wraps, I didn't talk to my friends or my family about it [because] I was trying not to get my hopes up because I heard a lot of no's at that point."

The partnership between Anglace and UConn came back in 2026 and Anglace wasn't just good or great; he was dominant.

He won eight of the 21 races but finished second in the standings by just 26 points, and UConn was with him through it all.

The sponsorship has helped him get recognized at Stafford Speedway, which is 15 minutes from the Storrs campus.

"I think it's been better than anybody expected," Anglace said. "There's been a lot of people that come up to us at the tracks to tell us their kid went to UConn, or they went to UConn many years ago and they love the race car which is really nice."

Anglace even takes the UConn car to Football games at the Rent sometimes, and the crowds are massive.

"When we go to the football games, it's always a huge crowd," Anglace said. "When we went to the first football game, we brought the car to, there was a line for like eight hours of constant people sitting in the car and taking pictures that I didn't have a minute to eat."

Anglace added that he wasn't sure people would be interested in seeing it and he was surprised by the turnout.

But some things haven't worked out for Anglace and UConn.

The pair were supposed to race in the NASCAR Truck Series at select races in 2026, but that fell through.

But even then, the success that both UConn and Anglace had in 2026 was fantastic and they look to partner up even more in the future.

As for the 2027 season, Anglace said his plans are not concrete yet, but there is something in the works and the announcement will come in the following weeks on his Facebook.



Photo of professional stock car racing driver Nick Anglace. Anglace has competed part-time in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, driving for Mike Harmon Racing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NICKANGLACE10 ON INSTAGRAM



Nick Anglace poses in front of his race car. Anglace has competed part-time in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, driving for Mike Harmon Racing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NICKANGLACE10 ON INSTAGRAM

WILKER'S WEEKLY: GRADING THE THREE BIGGEST TRADES FROM THE NFL TRADE DEADLINE

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Jaguars swing for the fences with Jordan Davis's addition

JAX sends 2027 1st Round Pick, 2029 2nd Round Pick to PHI for NT Jordan Davis

On the surface, this trade looks like a win-win. The Jaguars gave up significant draft capital to add to their defensive line following DaVon Hamilton's season ending injury, adding both Jordan Davis and Davon Godchaux. Davis, of course, is the more notable of the two.

Liam Coen clearly values defenders who are sound against the run, with the Jaguars allowing the fewest yards per game on the ground last year and ranking fifth in run defense this season. The loss of Hamilton could have put a pin in that, but Davis is an upgrade. Additionally, the former Georgia Bulldog is under contract until 2029, meaning the Jaguars' top run defense will be among the most qualified for years to come.

The 336-pound behemoth earned the Eagles a pair of top 64 picks. For a team amidst a reset, that's a very sound return, especially for a player of a low value position, like nose tackle. With Jalen Carter already rostered and Moro Ojomo out of contract at the end of the season, Philadelphia is looking towards the future on the defensive interior.

JAX Grade: B+ | PHI Grade: A

Rental safety sure to provide production for the Jaguars

JAX sends a 2027 2nd Round Pick, 2028 5th Round Pick to ATL for SAF Jessie Bates

The Jaguars' first move of the day on Tuesday was the addition of Atlanta's All-Pro safety, Jessie Bates. 2025 saw Bates selected a Second-Team All-Pro for the third time in his career. The Wake Forest alumnus was a bright spot on the Falcons' average defense, which ranked 19th last season.

This year, the Michael Penix-led Falcons are just 3-6, and will likely drop to 3-7 after this weekend's matchup against the Chiefs. Selling is the right move for the Falcons, and receiving a top 64 pick for a 29-year-old safety with an expiring contract is tremendous business.

The Jaguars, on the other hand, have an argument as the best team in football. Veteran Eric Murray was averaging 50.6 snaps per game to start the season before suffering a season ending elbow injury on the opening kickoff of Week 8. Now, an expensive but star rental enters the fold for the Jaguars' defensive backfield.

Bates wasn't going to be a part of the next great Falcons team, but he has a real shot to win a Super Bowl in Jacksonville come February.

JAX Grade: B+ | ATL Grade: A

Kirk Cousins returns to save Minnesota

MIN sends a 2027 3rd Round Pick to LV for QB Kirk Cousins

This is something of a desperate trade from the Vikings, so I wouldn't feel comfortable giving it a much higher grade than a B-. Nonetheless, I'm a fan. Minnesota's Brian Flores-led defense is one of the best we've seen in history. His astronomical blitz rate has seen the Vikings hold opposing offenses to just 14.5 PPG, the lowest figure in football.

Kyler Murray and Carson Wentz have combined to lead one of the most pathetic offenses in football. In aggregate, they've totaled 8 touchdowns and 5 interceptions. The offense is 31st in passing yards per game, and aside from Week 1, they've yet to score 24 points. Since their Week 6 bye, they've scored 37 points.

Now, the Vikings bring back a player who ranks second in passing touchdowns and has proven success with head coach Kevin O'Connell. In 26 games with O'Connell as the head coach, Cousins totaled 42 touchdowns and 17 interceptions while maintaining a 67.6% completion rate and averaging 275.0 passing yards per game.

The Vikings will likely improve, while the Raiders look towards the future with No. 1 pick Fernando Mendoza set to start on Sunday. I recently cited the Raiders as a reincarnation of the 2017 Buffalo Bills: a team with veteran stability at QB that could find themselves as the last team in the playoffs. Instead, the Raiders will see their Josh Allen early.

Vegas added a top-100 pick to their cache for a 38-year-old quarterback. Despite an encouraging start to the year in Nevada, their 1-5 record over the last six has proven the inevitable: Coaching can only take a team so far. The Raiders don't appear to have the talent to make a playoff push, so getting a young star rep and looking to build towards the future should be the priority.

MIN Grade: B- | LV Grade: A-