## Motorsport america

## JR Motorsports to field talented young driver in the No. 9 Chevrolet

Driver Chase Elliott will compete full time in the NASCAR Nationwide Series for JR Motorsports starting in 2014 and do so with NAPA AUTO PARTS as his full-season primary sponsor, the team announced today.

With Elliott as its driver, the 2014 season will mark NAPA's 19th in NASCAR sponsorship. NAPA (National Automotive Parts Association) has more than 6,000 stores nationwide with more than 400,000 quality parts and accessories for automotive and industrial applications – the most extensive inventory in the industry.

NAPA headquarters is in Atlanta, Ga., just a short distance from Elliott's hometown of Dawsonville, Ga.

"NAPA is pleased to continue its long standing involvement in NASCAR, the most popular form of motorsports in the United States supported by its many loyal and passionate fans," commented Dan Askey, President of NAPA. "Equally, we are proud to form this new partnership with JR Motorsports. Kelley Earnhardt Miller, Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Rick Hendrick and its many employees have developed one of the premier teams in the Nationwide Series. Chase Elliott is a young and talented, future star in the sport and will represent NAPA well both on and off the track. We welcome Chase and the entire JR Motorsports organization to the NAPA Family."

Elliott will carry the No. 9 on his NAPA Chevrolet – the same number his father, legendary racer Bill Elliott, carried for much of his storied career that included the

1988 Sprint Cup Series championship. The 2014 season will mark the younger Elliott's Nationwide Series debut. He turned 18 on Nov. 28, becoming eligible for competition.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime," Chase Elliott said. "My family and I are still trying to believe it all. I couldn't ask to be partnered with anyone better than Dale Jr., Kelley and Mr. Hendrick, along with all of the people at their organizations who have put in countless hours to pull this together.

By taking on the full 33-race schedule, Elliott has the chance to become only the fifth multi-generational NASCAR champion, as only Richard Petty (Lee Petty), Larry Pearson (David Pearson), Dale Jarrett (Ned Jarrett) and Earnhardt Jr. (Dale Earnhardt Sr.) have accomplished such a feat. Bill Elliott's 1988 Sprint Cup title came during a season in which he recorded six of his 44 career wins. Known affectionately as "Awesome Bill from Dawsonville,"

Bill Elliott is a two-time winner of the Daytona 500, a member of the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, and a 16-time winner of NASCAR's Most Popular Driver Award.

"No doubt the historical element of this is pretty cool," said Earnhardt Jr. "Bill Elliott is one of the greats. I've always looked up to him. He had some great battles with my dad. Certainly The Winston in 1987 is an all-time favorite. It was probably some of the hardest



racing you'll see, and it's fun to watch even to this day. I think there are a lot of Elliott fans and Earnhardt fans that will take interest in Chase's career and support him 100 percent."

Elliott signed with Hendrick Motorsports when he was just a freshman in high school. Since 2011 his family-owned team, Bill Elliott Racing, has received support from the Rick Hendrick-owned organization while it toured super late model, pro late model and NASCAR regional events. Hendrick Motorsports fielded a truck for Elliott in nine Camping World Truck Series events in 2013, to which he finished sixth or better in his first six races. That included his victory in the Chevrolet Silverado 250 at Canadian Tire Motorsports Park on Sept. 1.







