

some things that we do when we work on the car that we like to do the same. Like putting the hood pins in a certain way, and stuff like that.”

Before the 06 season was even over with, Delabruere had decided he was going to be in a late model in 2007. He knew that it would be different in the late model than in the four-cylinder Cavalier.

“Getting used to the late model is definitely a learning curve that takes a lot of seat time to adjust to,” he says, “but every week I’m getting more and more comfortable with the car. The biggest change that I had to get used to was that it’s so easy to overdrive the car getting off the corners and spin the tires.”

Delabruere did overdrive the car

some in his first times out, spinning the car out least once, but by his third race he’d managed a third-place finish. The Late Model division also brought on more competition than in the street stocks. Riverside has seen its numbers grow in the late models to 18 to 22 cars per week, compared to the 8 to 15 of previous years and a similar number in the street stocks.

Still, on July 27, Delabruere managed his first late model win.

“I was unbelievably excited to win that race,” he admits. “I had never expected to win a late model race my rookie year. But it wasn’t just me that won that race. It was my dad putting in a lot of hours in the shop and Ryan Robinson (with

all the help he has given me at the track and at the shop.”

Delabruere’s main sponsor, FPH Tank Installation, is also his place of employment. He graduated from high school this spring and plans to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio starting in October to pursue a dual-major of Automotive Tech and Motorsports Tech. During college he plans to return to Riverside for a few races as he pursues a motorsports career and continues driving a late model.

In the final event this year, Delabruere had motor problems and was forced to drop out early. He finished the ‘07 season in eleventh place in points, but only one point out of tenth.

Delabruere has the attitude of a seasoned driver and can go far in the racing world, according to Riverside

As with many kids mixing it up with the grownups, Ryan Delabruere tries to keep a low profile. Further success on the track, however, will make that tougher off it than it appears to be here.



32 Short track

General Manager Dick Therrien.

“We are very fortunate to have talented young drivers like Ryan at Riverside Speedway,” he declares, “and his family and team are the kind of people that all promoters want in their pits.” With a great family and a tremendous work ethic. Ryan Delabruere has “promotable” value. Could he ever reach NASCAR? Who knows?

But it would be nice to see someone who started their career at Riverside go places.

**LATE MODEL
RACER**

Pavement-pounding Late Models