

# Meet Ryan and Krissie Newman

## Pet Lovers and NASCAR® Stars

by Mary Barton

A rough day is when you smash your car into a wall going 120 mph. Ryan Newman had that kind of day the day before he and his wife, Krissie, stopped by Marathon to select the furnishings for their new H3-45 triple slide. Ryan crashed his No. 12 Dodge after 88 laps at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway in the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 due to tire troubles, placing a disappointing 43<sup>rd</sup>.

"I'm a little sore, but not too bad," Ryan commented about the impact of the accident on his body. "I was probably going 175 mph, but I had slowed down to about 120 before I hit. It's not real common that a car loses a front tire. It's hard to brake when that happens."

Ryan has been racing for 24 years, beginning in quarter midgets when he was just 4-years-old. He steadily moved up in the series, graduated from Purdue University in August, 2001 with a degree in vehicle structure engineering, culminating in a great qualifying and a respectable NASCAR racing history.

"You'd think I'd win every race, wouldn't you?" Ryan quipped about his degree. "It helps to have an understanding of the car and being able to communicate with the team. That doesn't mean I'm any better than anybody else, I just have the credentials to try to be. I was always interested in racing, and I use my education as a background to help my team. I also have something to fall back on if racing doesn't work out."

Newman began racing for Roger Penske in 2000, when he won three ARCA races and made his Cup debut in November in Phoenix. In 2002, he was named NASCAR's "Rookie of the Year," and won his first career NASCAR Winston Cup race. He went on to win eight more Winston Cup races for Team Penske in 2003, leading the series in victories.



Ryan Newman's Penske Racing #12 Alltel Dodge racecar.



Interior Designer Jennifer Clausen helped Krissie Newman narrow down her design options.



The exterior rendition of Ryan and Krissie Newman's upcoming Marathon coach, #1060, was inspired by racing flags.



Ryan and Krissie Newman travel at least 36 weeks every year on the racing circuit.

"I love the pure competition, the level of that competition, and the amount of things that have to go right to have a good day, let alone a great race day," he said. "It can be really intense. It's a matter of performance: If the performance is there, then there is no tension at all. If the car is handling great, you're not tense."

Ryan and Krissie's task of designing their coach was a welcome respite from their days at the track. They chose a floorplan with a private rear bath off the master suite, stainless steel countertops in the galley, slate tile flooring, and two leather sofas in the salon. The coach will contain a plasma TV, several LCD TVs, two underbelly refrigerator/freezers, and an audio/visual system for entertaining guests.

"It's nice to be able to pick out the furnishings and get exactly what you want," Ryan said. "About the only time we have is at the racetrack, since we race 36 weekends out of the year, so this coach will be our home away from home."

Krissie and Ryan have been married two years. When asked if Krissie also races, Ryan said, "Her heart races for me, that's about it."

Both Ryan and Krissie are devoted to responsible pet care and the elimination of pet overpopulation. They established the Ryan Newman Foundation in January, 2005 to support charities for pets in need of assistance and to help protect natural habitats. To become involved with the Newman foundation, please e-mail [info@ryannewmanfoundation.org](mailto:info@ryannewmanfoundation.org). When you have the opportunity, try and catch Ryan and Krissie at the racetrack and welcome them to the Marathon family. •