

COURTNEY FORCE

2012 NHRA Rookie of the Year



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COURTNEY FORCE

BORN: 06/20/1988 HOMETOWN: YORBA LINDA, CA

AWARDS: 2012 Auto Club Road to the Future Rookie of the Year

WINS: TAD - Seattle; Funny Car - Seattle 2012, Pomona and Epping 2013

 @CourtneyForce

PRE-STAGE
STAGE
RUN TRUE

BIO The 2012 recipient of the Automobile Club of Southern California's Road to the Future Award as the NHRA Rookie of the Year, Courtney approaches her third season with the same enthusiasm as she did her first.

Courtney qualified No. 1 at the NHRA O'Reilly Winternationals in 2013, and then proceeded to win the race and set the track speed record.

A semifinalist in just her second race, the former high school cheerleader started from the front of the Funny Car field two times, took her black-and-red Traxxas Ford Mustang to four final rounds and claimed a breakthrough victory in the O'Reilly Northwest Nationals in Seattle, beating 2011 series champion Matt Hagan in the final.

Ultimately, she finished fifth in the driver standings, equaling the best ever showing for a rookie in Funny Car history.

Having earned the college degree upon which her mother's blessing was contingent, Courtney now is making the most of her opportunity to compete at drag racing's highest level.

Her preparation for a professional career included a six-year apprenticeship in Super Comp and Top Alcohol dragsters, followed by private tutoring in sister Ashley Force Hood's informal "Funny Car 101" class and a full season of testing in a Funny Car.

On the track, she also mimicked her sister's success by driving one of veteran Jerry Darien's race cars to a Top Alcohol Dragster victory in 2009 at Seattle, the site, ironically, of her first professional win, as well.

"I grew up watching my dad race and I knew that was what I wanted to do. I went to Cal State-Fullerton and I got a degree similar to Ashley's. When Ashley got her start in Funny Car I couldn't wait to join my family in the Funny Car ranks. I knew from the time I was a little kid I wanted to be a race car driver."

"My first full pass in a fuel Funny Car was the best feeling ever," Courtney enthused. "I knew at that point that I could do it. I felt the accomplishment of getting past the finish line. It didn't matter what my reaction time was or my elapsed time or speed. I got to the other end and I knew, 'I can build on that.'"



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