

Wagner 20th at TDI

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MEDIA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

ALTON, Va. - Growing up with NASCAR in her backyard, Bristol, Va., resident Jenna Wagner never thought her short track success would lead her to road course racing. Especially with a family rooted in short tracks like hers.



Wagner

"Hopefully I can pull my experience from short track racing into road course racing," Wagner said last week in a phone interview with the *Register & Bee*. "I don't really know exactly how much it'll help, but I hope it can help me a little bit."

Wagner's forte into road course racing in the Volkswagen Jetta TDI Cup Series hasn't gotten off to the best of starts, as the 21-year-old finished 22nd and 20th after starting last in both season opening races at Virginia International Raceway in Alton.

Wagner, driving the No. 4 VW Pre-Loved car, was invited to the TDI Series a few weeks prior to the

tryouts thanks to one of her sponsors at her local track, Lonesome Pine Raceway in Coeburn. Granted, it's different than what she wanted to do in her dream of making it to a NASCAR touring series.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me and I plan to use the experience to the fullest," Wagner said.

Wagner first got her racing start when she participated in the Racing 101 program, which was established by longtime Lonesome Pine Raceway official, sponsor and former championship car owner Lynn Peters, track announcer James Kincer and former LPR promoter Morris Copley. While in the program, Wagner had a successful 2005 season, before heading to Motor Mile Speedway in Radford, driving a Dodge Neon in the UCAR Division.

The Virginia High School graduate has raced

the past two seasons at Lonesome Pine, competing in the Mod-4 Division and Charger Division, winning rookie of the year in both divisions in 2008 and 2009, respectively. During the 2009 season, Wagner raced against her uncle, Steve Wright, while her father, Jack Wagner, spotted for her.

Though, it's been a different animal for Wagner to get adjusted to the left and right turns. She has been using the popular simulator I-Racing to get acquainted with the braking and handling of a car on a road course. She is also using notes from instructors in her pre-race preparation.

"I like that it's forcing me to branch into different styles of racing. I love the fact that I get to do road course racing, too," Wagner said. "I think any track time I can do anything is always helpful. I definitely think it'll help me when I'm driving locally at a short track. Ultimately, I think it's a good resume builder."

Keselowski wins Nationwide

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLADEGA, Ala. - Brad Keselowski won the Nationwide Series race at Talladega Superspeedway in a wild end to a NASCAR doubleheader Sunday.



Keselowski

It was nearly a replay of the Sprint Cup finish that saw Kevin Harvick nip Jamie McMurray at the finish line. McMurray got loose on the green-white checkered laps, triggering a wreck that nearly sent Dennis Setzer over the fence.

Setzer went airborne, crashed into the safety fence and his car was on fire as it skidded down the track. It was similar to last year's Cup race at Tal-

the surprise win. McMurray triggered the scary crash when he tried to squeeze in behind Harvick in a pack of traffic.

"I tried to get back to the bottom and I saw a little gap between Harvick and [Clint] Bowyer, and when you are looking at it out of the side mirrors, it's not as clear an angle as what it needs to be," McMurray said. "As

soon as I saw [Bowyer], I tried to get back up the race track to not wreck everybody, but unfortunately I couldn't save it and ended up spinning out there."

Keselowski won for the first time with Penske Racing. It's only the

program. Keselowski was added this year to make it a two-car operation with Justin Allgaier, who gave Penske his first career series win this month at Bristol when he beat Keselowski in a 1-2 Penske Racing finish.

Joey Logano was second and Harvick third. "I can't complain about third place," Harvick said. "It was a lot of the same scenario."

They were among the 10 drivers who pulled double duty and drove about 850 miles after rain wiped out Saturday's scheduled race.

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