

BRANDON WELP

From Dreams to Reality: Life's Performance:

Graduate: Class of 2002 Occupation: Mechanic

Take a journey through a time machine, and rewind your mind back to when you were eight years old. Do any special memories come to mind? At eight years old, Brandon Welp decided to venture out into his dad's shed to inspect an old riding lawn mower, but his inspection went further than looking. Brandon decided to transform the mower and make his own makeshift go-cart.

In the class of 2002 at Forest Park High School, Brandon played in the drum line and received various honors for his welding. As soon as he graduated, he received his Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) training and became the manager for NAPA in Huntingburg, Indiana. Eventually, he transferred to Konderding Automotive Repair Service (KARS) to spray bedliners professionally. In addition to spraying bedliners, he also runs their wrecker service, repairs damaged vehicles, completes full automotive restorations, and works on vehicles that need mechanical repair in order to get them to pass all Department of Transportation inspections.

Although he enjoys wrecker runs, they aren't as exciting when you have drivers behind the wheel who don't pay attention and come within inches of hitting you. Brandon went on a few calls with fatalities, which at the scene can get extremely intense—not to mention emotional. Even pulling the cars up on the rollback can get scary. Sometimes when you winch the vehicle up, the chain snaps and if it hits you, the tension from the chain could kill you.

Racing always played a major part of Brandon's life; he raced four-wheelers nationally for six years. One highlight of his life was placing third and fourth in the national series for the two classes he raced. Brandon always looks forward to riding dirt bikes with his little sister and friends. He really enjoys building and rebuilding motors whenever he gets the chance. Brandon always said, "Stick at whatever you want to do, no matter what people tell you; if you stick it out through the roughest times and keep trying, you will eventually get what you want." Building a business as his grandpa did is just a small dream away. Owning and managing his own race team ranks next in the agenda for his life plans. Sometime in the near future, Brandon plans to make custom-made race performance accessories and parts.

Fast forward the time machine to ten years from now. A person walks into a store, owned by Brandon Welp, and picks up a part for a dirt bike or off road vehicle with a sticker on it that says "Custom-made by Welp Racing".