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The American Athlete

Episode #2422

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Participants: **Jimmie Johnson – NASCAR Driver #48**

Christopher Bell – NASCAR Driver #95

William Byron – NASCAR Driver #24

General Synopsis for Episode #2422

In this episode of ‘The World of NASCAR’ racecar drivers share their background and stories of how they began their path towards a racing career. Seven-time NASCAR champion **Jimmie Johnson** started his career driving in the dirt. When he transitioned to asphalt he learned he was behind on techniques like car craft and knowledge and understand how to drive on asphalt. It took 5 years to win his first championship. Jimmie shares two things most fans do not realize that inside of race car, it can be 140° and how much a team sport NASCAR is. He shares his thoughts on stepping away from NASCAR, “I am ready to slow down but I cannot stop racing.” With no family in racing, **Christopher Bell** got into racing from a family friend. He started by driving high horsepower cars and midgets which was great for teaching car control but he did not learn how to shift. Driving for the Leavine Family Racing Team in 2017 he won the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. **William Byron** started with iRacing, a stimulation online racing against real competitors and moved into driving a race car at the age of 14. He discusses the relationship between the crew chief, the driver and teammates and how they help each other in terms of speed of the car and being competitive and sharing information for all to do well. William tries to stay focused on what the task is for him on the racing side.

Observation and Conclusion

In episode #2422 racing trivia questions are asked between segments to challenge viewers to research and learn sports facts. The participants encourage young viewers to pursue their passion and focus by overcoming obstacles, displaying athlete virtues of diligence, perseverance, the value of training and sportsmanship. **Christopher Bell** shares, “The outside pressure is overshadowed by the pressure I put on myself.” This episode inspires, educates, informs and empowers children 13 years of age and up.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Pierce, MA Ed.

Educational Consultant