



Vickers drives the No. 55 car, a modified Toyota Camry.

Daredevil Driver

Local Hero Tears up the Track

Of the many racing accomplishments NASCAR driver Brian Vickers already holds, the one that stands out to many doesn't even involve a race car.

WINE SELLERS
LEXINGTON, VA

- Mixers
- Wine By The Glass
- Craft Beers
- Event Planning
- Bar Suppliers

336.242.6551
1981 Cotton Grove Rd., Lexington, NC



Vickers and his family still call Davidson County home.

"Brian is the first NASCAR driver to sky dive into the Daytona International Speedway before a race," explains Don Rohr, marketing director for Scio Verum Corporation, which handles Vickers' publicity. On June 1, 2011, the Davidson County native dropped out of a plane 5,000 feet above the speedway and landed in the soft grass of the tri-oval—a feat that has never been duplicated.

When not skydiving, however, Vickers is, indeed, an accomplished driver. Vickers began his racing career at age 9, behind the wheel of a go-kart. After winning 80 races and three championships in the World Karting Association, Vickers moved on to full-sized cars and eventually to the pro circuit.

In 2001, Vickers made his NASCAR Busch (now Nationwide) Series debut, racing the No. 29 car for his family-owned team. In 2003, he was hired by Ricky Hendrick in the No. 5 GMAC Chevrolet. In the same year, Vickers, at 20 years old, became the youngest Busch Series champion in U.S. stock car racing history, a title that still stands today.

As to what contributed to these successes, Vickers' mother and current office manager, Ramona, says, "I never let school slip. If he ever brought home less than a 'B' he couldn't race, and he never did." ■ *By Ryan Newhouse*