



THE FIRST 60 YARDER



#295 IVAN "THE TERRIBLE" BLACKA

Inducted into the East Coast Hall of Fame September 2023

Ivan grew up in Philadelphia, PA and with his Dad's British Heritage, Speedway was in the blood! There were no tracks locally at the time, but they had heard of racing in California and thought Ivan should try it. In 1975, he ventured to the West Coast as a rookie and finished the season taking 4th place in the D-2 Championship at Hanford. By this time Batavia and Champion Speedway had opened at home so he came back East for the 1976 and 77 seasons. Ivan was so fast compared to the competition in NY that he earned the prestigious title of becoming the first rider to be placed on the 60 yard line! He was one of the top riders during his 2 seasons here and his Dad and brother even started a track at Quakertown, PA. In 1978, he got a dream opportunity to race in the World-Famous British League! From 1978 until 1982, Ivan raced in the National and British League in the UK and in 1980 and 81 had an over 7 point average. He also toured in Australia, racing with Bruce Penhall and Bobby Schwartz on Team USA!

