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## **Perseverance and Self-Reliance Lead Juan Pitta Towards His Goals**

Source RMG Race Media Group

Twenty-seven-year-old, Galt Resident, Juan Pitta, drives the No. 11 Late Model at All American Speedway and is close to grabbing his first 2011 win. Pitta gained recognition when he qualified for NASCAR's Drive for Diversity program in 2009, and was considered for a spot on the 2010 popular reality TV show Changing Lanes with Team Revolution Racing. He is now back at All American Speedway for 2011 with a new car he built last year, with great results so far.



At the young age of 15, Juan decided to take up karting where he struggled as the only driver in his family. Juan does not have any racing history in his family to look up to for advice and whereas most kids at the go kart tracks had their fathers critiquing their every move. Juan raced an 1982 Emmick kart all on his own. In the short time Juan raced karts he captured numerous wins and championships at the club and regional levels. By 2005, he decided to try out for a spot on Ron Sutton's Winner's Circle Racing Team. At the driver shootout Juan performed with excellent results and won a spot in the driver career development program.

In 2006 Pitta wanted to move into NASCAR Late Models which he tested with Bill McAnally by 2007, He and his family raised enough money to purchase his own late model. As a young car owner Pitta and his limited crew built his car and ran a limited schedule in 2007. He ran six races at Altamont Raceway where he captured one top five and three top ten finishes. He knew his car was capable of being competitive.

Pitta also raced at All American Speedway where he captured three top ten finishes in four races. In 2008, Pitta ran the full championship series at All American Speedway where he finished fifth in points and became a proud young parent to his new-born daughter Katelyn. With his abilities as a car owner and driver he was selected to test at the Drive For Diversity Testing and Evaluation Combine in October of 2008 at South Boston Speedway. Pitta proved successful and was signed for his first year with the Drive for Diversity program under the BMR banner for 2009.

The Drive for Diversity program is where Pitta feels he's gotten the most out of his racing career. Pitta gained skills and experience working with the largest team on the west coast, Bill McAnally Racing. "Racing late models at All American Speedway is tough because the competition level is extremely high and a lot of talent is exposed", says Pitta. He captured his first Late Model win with the help from BMR and finished fourth in championship points.

At the end of the season Juan was selected to try out for the popular NASCAR reality TV show Changing Lanes with Team Revolution Racing. Changing Lanes is a docu-reality series that spotlights drivers in NASCAR's Drive for Diversity program. Only the top 10 drivers qualified in the Drive for Diversity program were thrown into the Changing Lanes challenge to compete for limited spots on Team Revolution Racing. Pitta had a long haul with the Changing Lanes Documentary with mixed feelings. In 2010, he was not re-signed for the Drive for Diversity program. Apparently, Pitta was considered to be too old for the Drive for Diversity program was sent back to California. This did not stop him one bit, he knew he could take all of the experience, training and knowledge he gained from both Ron Sutton's Winner's Circle and Bill McAnally Racing programs and incorporate that into his own program. In late 2010, Juan debuted a new Late Model sporting the number 11. 2010 was his break out year as a car owner and driver, grabbed two wins and finished fifth place in championship points.

"It was a great learning experience from all aspects of racing on how important marketing yourself is to team leadership and even politics of racing and how important car sponsorship is," says Juan on the Drive for Diversity program.

Today Juan is keeping up with the competition level at All American Speedway and is well on his way to earning his first 2011 win. With five races on the books for 2011 Juan has four top fives. "We're looking for wins, the points are going to fall into place. My team and I have worked hard to be a top caliber team. We are still actively searching for opportunities in NASCAR west and the SRL Southwest Tour series," say Pitta.

He is hoping to grab his first 2011 win while his 2 ½ year old daughter is present at the track so that she can plant a good memory to look back at with her dad. Outside of racing Juan is a full time mechanic for the Elk Grove School District and a single parent to daughter Katelyn

Juan Pitta would like to thank his 2011 sponsors and partners: CASCAR Machine Shop, El Patron Bar & Grill, Left Hander Chassis, Smile Office Technology, Galt In N' Out Smog, Sacramento Shirt Shop, NAAKE Suspension, RPM Norcal, Tim Barile Desings, Speed Energy, GM Repair Center of Roseville, Blakesley Sports Media, MTFX, Kartel Motorsports, FRE, RJB Race Engines and the All American Speedway Fans for all of their continued support. Juan would also like to thank his family and crew for all of their hard work and support. More information can be found at Juan's website [www.JuanPittaRacing.com](http://www.JuanPittaRacing.com)