



HALL OF FAME DRAG RACER DARRELL GWYNN'S LEGENDARY FLORIDA DRAGSTER SET TO CROSS THE BLOCK AT MECUM KISSIMMEE 2026

Miami, Fla. — November 13, 2025 — Hall of Fame Racer Darrell Gwynn's renowned race car, the Coors Extra Gold Top Fuel dragster, will cross the Mecum Auctions block at The World's Largest Collector Car Auction® on January 15, 2026, in Kissimmee, Florida. The Coors Extra Gold Special car was graciously donated by the Tiegs family back to the Darrell Gwynn Chapter of The Buoniconti Fund.

Driven by South Florida native Darrell "The Kid" Gwynn, this dragster made a significant mark on the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) in the late 1980s and was notably driven in Gwynn's last win at the 1990 Gatornationals. The car's legacy is closely tied to The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, an organization Gwynn has supported for more than three decades, with branding first applied personally by Gwynn months before his paralyzing injury.

In April 1990, during an exhibition run in England, Gwynn suffered a devastating accident that left him permanently paralyzed. Yet, his passion for racing and advocacy only grew stronger. Post injury, Darrell was thrilled to keep his team intact as he returned to the sport as an owner and team leader, continuing to amass even more Top Fuel victories for another decade. In the more than three decades since the accident, Gwynn has championed the cause, using the dragster's enduring legacy as a beacon for awareness and support.

"This car means a lot to me," Gwynn reflected. "It represents memorable victories and my ongoing support for The Miami Project and The Buoniconti Fund."

Today, the dragster stands as a unique symbol of not only Darrell's dominance in the sport at the time but his resilience, and it highlights the connection between motorsport and research. Through public appearances and fundraising, the race car continues to raise awareness about spinal cord injuries and supports the mission for a cure.

Throughout the late 1980s, Gwynn's talent and tenacity behind the wheel brought the Coors Extra Gold Top Fuel dragster to national prominence. In 1989, Gwynn set records and won three NHRA national events. His mastery of the dragster defined an era, earning widespread respect for his fearless performance and technical innovation. The car itself became synonymous with speed and excellence, achieving career-best elapsed times and speeds at major NHRA events.

The pedigree of Darrell Gwynn's Original Restored Coors Extra Gold Special from the 1989-1990 season is unparalleled, and a piece like this rarely becomes available at auction. The car was Darrell Gwynn's last competitive ride in a Top Fuel car, finished fourth place in NHRA/Winston championship points in 1989 and scored five national event wins at the 1989 U.S. Nationals, 1989 Keystone Nationals, 1990 Gatornationals, 1990

Springnationals and 1990 Chief Auto Parts Nationals. The car also set three National (NHRA/Top Fuel) Records including a 4.981 ET on September 2, 1989 in Indianapolis, a 4.951 ET on September 17, 1989 in Reading, Pennsylvania, and a 4.909 ET on March 2, 1990 in Houston.

Additionally, this car made history at the 1989 U.S. Nationals by qualifying No. 1 with an ET of 4.981, winning the race and setting the national record at 4.981, becoming only the seventh member of the 4-second club at the time. Although the car did not compete in three races because of Darrell's accident, Frank Hawley went on and finished sixth in NHRA/Winston series points in 1990 and won an emotional first race back in this car at the 1990 Springnationals. The car boasts a 300-inch wheelbase 1989 Mike Kase chassis, a magnesium body by craftsman Steve Davis, and paint by John Pugh.

The story of this dragster is inseparable from Gwynn's career and fate. Today, the Coors Extra Gold Top Fuel dragster not only commemorates the pinnacle of Darrell Gwynn's triumphant racing career but also stands as a testament to his resilience and determination. This historic car is sure to be the centerpiece of someone's collection following the Mecum Kissimmee 2026 auction and will continue to inspire while it raises vital funds for spinal cord injury research.

Learn more about Mecum Auctions and view the lot:

[1989 Darrell Gwynn Coors Extra Gold Top Fuel Dragster](#)

The Darrell Gwynn Chapter of The Buoniconti Fund: The Buoniconti Fund is the fundraising arm of The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, a Center of Excellence at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The Darrell Gwynn Chapter works to raise awareness and funds for critical spinal cord injury research programs and quality of life initiatives. The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, is conducting cutting-edge discovery, translational and clinical investigations in traumatic spinal cord and brain injury, peripheral nerve injury and neurological diseases and disorders including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, ALS, Multiple Sclerosis and stroke. The Miami Projects international team includes more than 175 scientists, researchers, clinicians, and support staff who take innovative approaches to these challenges.

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For more information visit www.thebuonicontifund.com/DarrellGwynn Follow us on Social Media at Facebook @DarrellGwynnChapter and @CureParalysis; Instagram @TheMiamiProject and X @BuonicontiFund and @darrell_gwynn

Hashtags: #DarrellGwynnChapter, #BuonicontiFund #NHRA #CoorsExtraGold #TopFuelDragster

About Mecum Auctions

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