

September 19, 2011

Binghamton native safe at air races

A Binghamton native competing in the 2011 National Championship Air Races and his crew are safe following a Friday crash that killed a pilot and several spectators and injured more than 50 others.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by this accident,” said John Zayac, a 1977 graduate of Binghamton Central High School and Denver businessman who pilots McDonald Racer 37. “The air race community has been devastated by the severity of this crash.”

Zayac has competed in the annual air races in Reno, Nevada, for the past 11 years.

The P-51 Mustang Galloping Ghost, piloted by 74-year-old veteran racer and stunt pilot Jimmy Leeward, crashed into the box seat area in front of the main grandstand.

— **Jennifer Micale**