

CLASS OF 2018

Dave MacMaster

The heartbeat of every race car is its engine. It's the engine that propels a driver to victory with ample power, or allows him to earn a title if it has durability. Power and reliability are critical in the world of racing engines.

Gardiner, Maine, native Dave MacMaster has always known how it'd done. He sold his first racing engine in 1971, starting in his home garage. He would eventually become one of the most renowned and respected engine builders of his era, founding a company that reached the pinnacle of success here in the Northeast.

After MacMaster teamed up with Marty Butler to form **Butler & MacMaster** Racing Engines in 1983, growth and recognition came quickly. They grew to have 13 employees working to create high performance engines for a variety of racers in all kinds of vehicles.

When NASCAR's Busch North Series was at its peak during the 1990s, Dave's company built the engines for as many as 16 teams at one point. Car owners of all levels knew and Butler & MacMaster engine was the hot ticket, including Maine's own four-time BNS Champion, Andy Sentero.

MacMaster's engines powered drivers to victory at just about every major track in Busch North and the Busch Series down south. That reputation for power and reliability spread up and down the eastern seaboard. When times were good in racing, business flourished and MacMaster worked for some of the top names in NASCAR.

When the Late Model landscape began to change here in the Northeast, driven mostly by economics, Dave was instrumental in the development of the ACT 'Spec' engine for the late Tom Curley. Always a visionary, Curley knew teams would need an affordable, reliable engine to stay in racing. MacMaster even worked with Moroso to develop special oil pans for various applications.

In 2002, Dave received the prestigious Don MacTavis Award from ACT, the highest honor one can receive in New England auto racing. The Ford Motor Company also presented MacMaster with a rare (one of 500) coin to commemorate his efforts in the development of their high-competitive Spec engine for Late Models.

On Dec. 16, 2011, New Jersey-based Melton Industries announced they had purchased Butler-MacMaster. Melton services heavy-duty industrial equipment and had a working relationship with B&M over the years. MacMaster stayed on as a consultant for 16 months then retired.

Today, MacMaster enjoys each new day as a blessing. He says he's extremely proud to be honored by his peers.

"As an engine builder from Gardiner, being inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame is a little overwhelming. I just always enjoyed building good engines, and tried to surround myself with quality people. It was the guys who worked for me that made me successful; I just provided the tools and guidance. I am deeply grateful for this honor, and thank those who made it possible.

