

BILLY HARNISH

Driver

If you were to use just one word to describe Billy Harnish, it would be “dominant”. But that may not be enough to truly summarize the career of the person many consider the most successful racer in the history of Speedway 95. Billy Harnish’s racing career began in 1967 at the age of 16. It took him just a year to claim his first win – his first of many, many wins. In 1972 he drove to his first division title, winning the Speedway 95 Sportsman division crown. More victories would pile up through the 1970’s and a Hobby division championship in 1975. While he had a taste of success in his early years of racing, his dominance reached a whole new level over the next two decades. He took home six Charger division championships over seven years from 1982 – 1988. In 1982 he won 13 out of 16 races he ran. In the 1990’s he moved into the Street Stock and Super Street classes. 1993 was a banner year for Harnish, as he notched an amazing 20 feature wins on his way to the Street Stock crown; a single season record that still stands today. He followed that up with three straight Super Street championships from 1994 – 1996. Throughout his years of racing, he would occasionally make the trek over to Unity Raceway where he would also find success, winning several races there as well. Seemingly still at the top of his game, Harnish decided to retire from racing at the end of the 96’ season at the age of 45. All told, in a 30-year racing career, Billy amassed 12 championships and well over 100 feature wins. When asked to reflect on his amazing career, he mentions his love of giving his trophies to young fans in the stands at Speedway 95. Congratulations to Billy Harnish on his induction into the 2020 class of the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame.

