

Jack Roush – Biography

Jack Roush, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Roush Enterprises, Inc., began his automotive career in 1964, when he was recruited by Ford Motor Company to work on the processing of car assembling and tooling. While working for Ford, Roush was drawn to the company's extensive motorsports activities and surrounded himself with others who shared his enthusiasm for going fast in a drag racer, joining a group called The Fastbacks in 1966.

Roush left Ford in May of 1969 and began buying his own equipment to improve the racing performance of The Fastbacks. It was not long before he was doing development work for other teams.

Roush worked at Chrysler as an engineer for one year before leaving in 1970 to start his own engineering business. He began his next motorsports venture by forming a partnership with Wayne Gapp. For the next five years, the duo attracted national attention by winning events and one championship each in NHRA, IHRA and AHRA with their Pro Stock racer. In between his racing ventures, he taught mathematics, physics, and a variety of automotive subjects at Monroe Community College in Monroe, Michigan.

Roush was involved exclusively in drag racing until 1978 and advanced in power classes to the NHRA Pro Stock division. He also managed to find time to provide engines for race teams in other sports, such as the Pike's Peak Hill Climb and various powerboat and oval track series.

In 1976, Roush ended his partnership with Gapp and formed Jack Roush Performance Engineering. Roush's success at the track and his reputation as a performance engineer helped deliver project after project to his doorstep. He stopped operating the drag racing team, but kept doing race business for other teams. Roush primarily built engines for other teams throughout the early 1980s.

In 1982, Roush formed a partnership with Zakspeed Racing to run GTX and GTP cars for Ford in the United States. Zakspeed had success racing in Europe and wanted to partner with Roush for the U.S. races. Some of their drivers included Kevin Cogan, Bobby Rahal, and European superstar Klaus Ludwig.

In 1984, Roush returned to competition in the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) and International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) road racing series. In the first year, he won the manufacturer's title for Lincoln-Mercury. Since then, Roush Racing has claimed 24 national championships and titles in the two series, including 12 manufacturer's championships. Drivers who helped Roush achieve his 119 road racing victories include Tommy Kendall, Wally Dallenbach, Jr., Scott Pruett, Willy T. Ribbs and former Craftsman Truck team general manager, Max Jones.

Roush has also earned 10 consecutive 24 Hours of Daytona sedan class championships. Some of the drivers who competed for Roush are Kendall, Dallenbach, Pruett, Mark Martin, Bill Elliott, Ricky Rudd, Kyle Petty, Ken Schrader, Robby Gordon, Pete Halsmer, Lyn St. James, as well as actor Paul Newman and Olympian Bruce Jenner.

In 1988, Roush expanded his racing business to include a NASCAR Winston Cup team with driver Mark Martin. During the team's inaugural season, Martin won one pole and earned 10 top-10 finishes. In October 1989, Roush and Martin claimed their first NASCAR Winston Cup victory at North Carolina Motor Speedway.

Since that time, Roush has won five championships across NASCAR's three premier series (2000 – Truck Series with Greg Biffle; 2002 – Nationwide Series with Greg Biffle; 2007 – Nationwide Series with Carl Edwards; 2003 – Sprint Cup Series with Matt Kenseth; and 2004 – Sprint Cup Series with Kurt Busch) and captured his 100th Sprint Cup race with driver Carl Edwards in 2007 at Dover.

In 2009, Roush is slated to claim his 2,500th Sprint Cup start when the series visits Pocono Raceway on June 7. Over the last 20 years, Roush has amassed 3,926 starts across NASCAR's top three series (2,432 in Sprint Cup, 807 in Nationwide and 687 in Camping World Truck) finishing inside the top 10/46.8 percent of the time and inside the top five/28 percent of the time. Of those 3,926 starts, Roush Fenway Racing has a combined 260 NASCAR wins, 168 poles, 1,104 top-five and 1,838 top-10 finishes.

Aside from his on-track success, Roush is also a leader off-track, becoming the first team to combine efforts with another entity. Beginning in 2007, Roush's winning tradition continued under the new name of Roush Fenway Racing. Roush Racing and Fenway Sports Group (FSG) announced the formation of Roush Fenway Racing during Speedweek in Daytona Beach, Fla. In an unprecedented relationship, Roush Fenway Racing brings together two championship organizations that have a distinguished track record of success in their respective businesses and sports.

Roush also joined forces with Doug Yates to form Roush Yates Engines in 2005. The engine shop, based out of Mooresville, North Carolina, supplies horsepower for Roush Fenway Racing, Yates Racing and several other teams in Sprint Cup, Nationwide, Truck and the ARCA Series.

Born in Covington, Kentucky, Mr. Roush was raised in Manchester, Ohio. He attended Berea College and received a mathematics degree with a minor in physics in 1964. He obtained a master's degree in scientific mathematics from Eastern Michigan University in 1970. Mr. Roush resides in Northville, Michigan.