





Berlin City - Dion Gros. Racing



Team





"The Dion Family would like to thank all the team members, sponsors and fans for the great memories we all have to share for the last 44 years."

There's no way that statistics listing their many wins and championships could capture the essense of New England's favorite late model team. These guys are different.

Over 40 years ago, Roger, Paul, Donald and Dave Dion stripped down a clapped-out 1948 coupe to build a race car. It was a pretty modest operation. But, though thousands of race teams would come and go in the '60's, this one would prove to be special.

By the advent of the '70's and the arrival of the late-model type cars, fans were beginning to notice these Dion Brothers. Sure, they were getting faster and faster, but, more importantly, there was a style - a karma - about them that endeared them to the racing community.

Part of it, for sure, related to personal characteristics. The Brothers worked hard, were spirited and totally moral - and, above all, loyal to each other. Dave Dion's approach as a driver was completely in line with that philosophy. He has always been tough behind the wheel, never giving up, while at the same time racing consistently and cleanly. Another part of the tradition has been the enduring relationship between the Dions and Ford. As the Brothers won more and more races, they became known as the Northern Wood Brothers, after a legendary Virginia team that built its reputation racing Fords and only Fords. In fact, Tommy Turner of Holman & Moody and the Wood Brothers themselves had contributed parts and know-how to the Dions when they first took on the Chevy-dominated ovals of the NASCAR North.

Dave Dion

Birth Date: November 30, 1943

Weight: 185 Height: 5' 9"

Hometown: Hudson, NH

Marital Status: Engaged, Dawn Francis Children: Gary, Angela & Michele Grandchildren: Jordan, Jasmine & Logan

The Dion Brother #29

Chassis: Dion Brothers
Engines: R & R Machine
Engine Builder: Dave Dion
Crew Chief: Roger Dion
Toom: Porlin City Dealership

Team: Berlin City Dealerships, Continental Paving Ford

In 1972 this loyalty was rewarded when C.J. Stewart, a Vermont Ford dealer, offered some sponsorship, in typical Dion fashion, the association lasted 15 successful years. Then in 1987, Danny and Elaine Dagesse of Berlin City Dealerships and their employees stepped up with support for the next 20 seasons. The bright orange Berlin City #29 emerged as a racing fixture, copping legion poles, wins, and the 1996 BUSCH North Grand National Championship.

Over the seasons, other Dion Brothers partnerships also grew into lasting friendships, Continental Paving, R & R Machine, SNF Crane, Merrimack Lincoln/Mercury, John's Excavating, Champion Buses, Steve Gile's Auto Body, and Penske Shocks among them. Of all the relationships, though, the most unique and strongest has been forged with the fans. Dave has become a sentimental favorite within the old-time racing community, the guy who does it his way, with style and ingenuity, rather than gold and glitz.

It is not surprising that in the last couple of years, Dave and his brothers have received the highest accolades regional racing can offer. In 2005, racing journalist and MRN announcer Dave Moody penned a critically acclaimed book, Life Wide Open, about the team's incredible journey. The in 2006, the whole team was inducted into the prestigious New England Auto Racing Hall of Fame.

The Dions' acheivements were so notable that in highly unusual fashion the brothers received the honor while still active in racing.

The number one question these days, of course, is just how long can this tradition motor on? Typically, while answering the question, David puts someone else first. "If we are competitive and the sport and the fans still see some value in us, it will be hard to say goodbye."

It would be even harder for thousands of fans in New England to see an era come to an end.

Lew Boyd, President, Coastal 181 publishers Editor at Large, Speedway Illustrated







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